THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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ARCHER DEEPIKA WARMS UP FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS IN STYLE

Star archer Deepika Kumari led the show with supreme authority to grab a hat-trick of gold medals as India made a clean sweep at the World Cup Stage 3 in Paris on Sunday

DEEPIKA-ATANU PAIR WINS 1ST GOLD TOGETHER

Eyeing their first-ever gold medal together, Deepika and husband Atanu Das, who are India's best medal hope in archery in the Olympics, bounced back from a 0-2 deficit to down the Netherlands' Sjef van den Berg and Gabriela Schloesser 5-3. That was the only time India faced some challenge as they displayed fine composure to reign supreme

INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY WITH 4 GOLD

- India's gold rush began with the women's recurve team of Deepika, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari notching up a comfortable win over Mexico
- The women's recurve team shrugged off the disappointment of missing the Olympics qualification last week

FOUR

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL WC GOLD MEDALS WON BY DEEPIKA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

In a first, terror attack by drone on Jammu IAF base

Two bombs dropped on airbase in the wee hours of Sunday; security establishment sees it as major escalation; high alert sounded in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

IN a first terror attack of its kind, two low-intensity improvised explosive devices dropped by drones went off in a highly secure Indian Air Force base in Jammu, about 14 km off the International Border, in the early hours on Sunday.

Both blasts in the technical area of the airbase took place within five minutes of each other. While the first explosion around 1.37 am on an administrative building close to a helicopter hangar left a gaping hole on its roof, the second blast took place around 1.42 am in an open area. Two IAF personnel sustained splinter injuries, but no equipment was damaged.

The security establishment saw in it as a major escalation of the situation. A high alert has been sounded across the state and security cover at airports and government installations have been strengthened.

Shortly after the attack, teams from the IAF, National Bomb Data Centre, forensic experts, J&K police, NIA, NSG and intelligence agencies reached the spot. The NIA is likely to take over the probe.

J&K police chief Dilbagh Singh confirmed it was a terror attack. Sources said investigation agencies are trying to ascertain whether the drones had come from across the International Border or were they remotely controlled from within Jammu by terrorists. How they managed to fly into the IAF station, where IAF personnel have observation posts, without being detected is a mystery.

Sources said security agencies are ascertaining whether the Jaish-e-Mohammad — which carried out the Pathankote airbase attack — was behind the pre-dawn bombing or was Lashkar-e-Taiba involved in it.

It is also being ascertained whether the target was an aircraft hangar or were the bombs intentionally dropped away from aircraft to send a message that there is no such thing as a safe installation any longer.

Special forces arrive at Jammu Air Force Station on Sunday after the twin blasts | PTI

DRONE DELIVERY OF ARMS BY PAK TROOPS

Since last year, Pakistani troops have been using drones to airdrop arms and ammunition for the militants along the International Border and Line of Control in J&K. In June last year, BSF jawans shot down a drone in Kathua district and recovered a US-made M-4 carbine rifle, two magazines, 60 rounds and seven Chinese grenades from the damaged drone. The weapons were meant for Jaish commander Ali Bhai

Whatever the reason, the safety of the IAF station has been breached for the first time in over three decades of militancy in J&K. "The drone attack is a new security challenge for the security agencies. It is a very serious issue and will need serious response," a security official said. P7

Covaxin laggard in vax pool, shows affidavit

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

IN sharp contrast to the claims of Bharat Biotech on ramping up Covaxin's production, only about 2.8 crore of its doses had been made available for the ongoing vaccination drive till June 12. This information was part of the 380-page affidavit the Union health and family welfare ministry filed in the Supreme Court on Saturday.

Of the over 32 crore vaccine doses administered so far, the share of Covishield, produced by Serum Institute of India, is more than 90%.

The latest revelation on Covaxin's low availability indicates the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker has been able to supply only about 50 lakh doses per month so far even though it has been claiming that it is constantly scaling up its manufacturing capacity and had reached 2 crore per month capacity in May.

The Centre issued purchase orders for 8 crore Covaxin doses till July this year in three instalments but the company after supplying the initial order of 1 crore doses over 2 months, was yet to supply 18,36,840 doses of the 2-crore order placed for March-May, as on June 12.

Despite the massive delays, the Centre went ahead and paid an advance amount for 5 crore Covaxin doses between May and July, the affidavit shows. Further, on June 4, the government paid the firm 30% of the total costs for 27 crore doses of Covaxin, at the rate of ₹150 per dose, for supplies between August and December.

The ministry in April had said that Bharat Biotech will produce 2 crore doses a month by May-June and 6-7 crore in July-August, though its capacity that month was 1 crore. A request to Bharat Biotech seeking its response on the slow supplies of Covaxin, has remained unanswered so far.

Meanwhile, the affidavit, scaled down the projected August-December availability of vaccines to 1.35 billion doses from 2.16 billion. It includes 50 crore doses of Covishield and 30 crore doses of Biological E's candidate, which is yet to complete phase 3 trial.

Covishield dose gap cut for students going abroad

The Centre also told the SC that it has relaxed the 12-16 weeks time interval for the second dose of Covishield for athletes bound for Olympics, students undertaking foreign travel for education and persons working abroad

TWITTER'S INTERIM GRIEVANCE OFFICER FOR INDIA QUITS | P7

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 26	JUNE 27
Fresh cases	48,698	50,040
Recoveries	64,818	57,944
Deaths	1,183	1,258

KARNATAKA	JUNE 26	JUNE 27
Fresh cases	4,272	3,604
Recoveries	6,126	7,699
Deaths	115	89

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 26
58,10,378 doses

June 27
64.25 Lakh doses

TOTAL DOSES
32,17,60,077

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and seers of various maths pay homage to a statue of Bengaluru founder Kempegowda at Vidhana Soudha on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Bengaluru Habba to mark founder's birth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STARTING next year, the Karnataka government will organise a three-day cultural festival to mark Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda's birth anniversary. It will be celebrated as 'Bengaluru Habba', announced Deputy Chief Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, who is pulling all stops to emerge as the next big Vokkaliga leader in BJP. He is also the vice-chairperson of the Kempegowda Heritage Area Development Authority.

The announcement was made on Sunday during an event to celebrate the 512th birth anniversary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda. On the occasion, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa released a postal envelope bearing the portraits of Kempegowda, and also relaunched the construction work of Kempegowda Study Centre on Jnanabharati campus.

"A 108 ft statue of Kempegowda, for which the chief minister had laid the foundation stone last year, was to be erected by now at the Kempegowda International Airport. But it has been delayed due to Covid. The work on the bronze statue is in progress at Noida (Ram Sutar workstation) and it will be installed by February next year. A central theme park, spread over 23 acres depicting the history of Nadaprabhu's lifetime, will also come up at KIA," said Ashwath Narayan. The government has identified 46 spots as Kempegowda heritage sites and develop them on priority to create a tourism circuit, he added.

"Kempegowda was a visionary and a progressive thinker. His plans for building Bengaluru about 500 years ago stand testimony to the insights he had on urban development and administration," said Yediyurappa.

City swimmer records Olympic timing, but must await approval

ASHIM SUNAM @Bengaluru

BENGALURU swimmer **Srihari Nataraj** on Sunday recorded the Olympic Qualifying Time (A cut) in the 100m backstroke at the Setti Colli Championship in Rome. His timing of 53.77 seconds in the requested time trial was better than the A cut timing of 53.85 secs. The timing will be sent to the world swimming body, FINA, which will decide in the coming days whether to accept it or not.

If his timing is okayed by FINA, he will only be the second Indian swimmer after Sajan Prakash, who achieved the feat on Saturday, to attain a direct Olympics berth.

"It will be for FINA to accept the result from the time trial at an approved qualification event. It is done routinely at many accredited meets, as in the recent case of the US Olympics team trials for the 400m freestyle event...," said Monal Chokshi, Secretary-General, Swimming Federation of India. In fact, Srihari had come close in the 100m backstroke a few days ago, falling short of the A mark by just .05 seconds.

Vaxed travellers from Maha can enter State

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Vijayapura

PEOPLE travelling from Maharashtra to Karnataka who do not have a Covid-negative report but have taken both doses of vaccine will be allowed to enter the State.

After reports of an increase in Delta-Plus variant cases in Maharashtra, Karnataka had issued guidelines to districts sharing the border with Maharashtra that those entering the State should produce a negative RTPCR report not older than 72 hours.

Those who have taken the vaccine but have symptoms will be made to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).

CONTINUED ON: P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) AND 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

VILLAGE IDENTITY

Why Malayalam? Stick to Kannada names: Netas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WHAT is in a name? A lot for political parties of Karnataka. As the Kerala government has decided to change Kannada names of villages in Kasargod district with Malayalam-meaning ones, politicians across spectrum in Karnataka kicked up a row, saying that the move smacks of anti-Kannada sentiment.

BJP MP for Mysuru and Kodagu Pratap Simha flagged the issue, appealing to CM BS Yediyurappa to intervene and hold talks with his Kerala counterpart Pinarayai Vijayan to stop the move. "Karnataka should immediately oppose Kerala government's decision and hold talks against this anti-Kannada move," he said.

Names of some 10 villages in Manjeshwar of Kasargod district are being considered to be changed to Malayalam with the same meaning.

JDS leader and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy appealed to the Kerala government to retain the original Kannada names of these villages. "Before Kerala takes up the process, I want to bring certain issues to its notice. Kasaragod is a place that has close ties with Karnataka. We have a cultural bond with the people of Kasaragod," he said. JDS is an alliance partner in the LDF government in Kerala.

"Though Kannada names of villages are being changed into Malayalam, their meaning appears to have been retained. I request the Kerala government to retain the original Kannada names too," he added.

Kasaragod is a place that has close ties with Karnataka. We have a cultural bond with the people of Kasaragod

HD Kumaraswamy

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LIC/PRA/20-21/25/Eng

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 28/06/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Chaturthi 5.35 pm • Nakshatra: Dhanishta 4.38 am • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 20°C | MAX 29°C

FORECAST Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 5.56 am · Sunset 6.49 pm · Moonrise 10.21 pm · Moonset 9.19 am

An isolation valve (inset) has been damaged in the transmission line from TK Halli to Bengaluru

MAJOR WATER SHUTDOWN IN CITY ON JUNE 30, JULY 1

Leakage in main transmission pipeline from Thorekadanahalli to city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

There will be no water supply on June 30 and July 1 as the BWSSB is fixing a leakage in the main transmission water pipeline from Thorekadanahalli (TK Halli) to the city. The affected areas are:

Shettihalli, Kammagondanahalli, Mallasandra, Bagalagunte, T Dasarahalli, HMT ward, Peenya 2nd stage, 3rd stage, 4th phase, Rajagopal Nagar, Ganapathi Nagar, MEI Colony, Lakshmidevi Nagar, BHCS Layout, Happy Valley, part of BDA layout, Uttarahalli, Bellandur, Ibbalur, Koramangala 1st Block, 4th Block, 4th C Block, J Block, Military Campus ASC center, Siddhartha Colony, Venkatapura, Teachers Colony, Jakkasandra and Jakkasandra extension, ST bed area, Part of Jayanagar 4th T block, Arsu colony, Thilak Nagar, NEI layout, East End A & B main roads, Krishnappa Garden and BHEL layout, BTM 2nd stage, Mico Layout, NS palya, Gurappanpalya, Sudguntepalya, Bismillah Nagar, J P nagar 4th to 8th Stages, Puttenahalli, Jaraganahalli, RBI layout, Panduranga Nagara, Arakere, Mico Layout, Doresani Palya, Kottanur Dinne, Venkatadri Layout, Chunchaghatta, Konanakunte, SBM Layout, Supreme Residency Layout, Lake City, Nadamma Layout, Rotary Nagar, Kodichikkanahalli village, HSR layout 1st to 7th sectors, Agara Village, Mangammanapalya, Madina Nagara, ITI Layout, Hosapalya, Bandepalya, Chandra Layout, BEML Layout 1st to 5th stage, Nagarbhavi, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Visvesvaraya layout all stages, BEL layout all stages, Mallathahalli, Ulala, D group layout, Railway Layout, Byadarahalli, Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Rajajinagar 6th Block , Basaveshwar Nagar, Manjunath Nagar, Nandini Layout, Goragunte Palya, Shankar Nagar, Prakash Nagar, Kurubarahalli, Shankarmatha, Kamala Nagar, Kamakshipalya, BEML Layout, KHB Colony, Shivanagar, Agrahara Dasarahalli and Papiah Garden and surrounding places.

City losing 1 mn litres of water per day as Cauvery pipeline leaks

S LALITHA @BENGALURU

BWSSB is going in for a massive water shutdown on Wednesday and Thursday to take up the work to stop a six-month-old leak in the main transmission water pipeline from Thorekadanahalli (TK Halli) to the city.

The pipeline was leaking earlier too, but over the last few days, the wastage has surged to one million litres per day (MLD). The city gets water from Shiva Anaicut reservoir along Cauvery river, travelling a distance of over 100 km. It reaches the TK Halli reservoir by gravity and then pumped to the city through three pumping stations and mammoth pipelines. The city receives between 1,462 and 1,475 MLD of water daily.

SR Hemanth Kumar, Executive Engineer, BWSSB, T K Halli, told *The New Indian Express*, "The pipeline was laid in 2002. An isolation valve needs to be replaced as it is damaged. The site is at Gublala village, which is a short distance from TK Halli. We will replace a portion of this 5.6 km pipeline with a new pipe and valve. We have to shut down the water supply to carry out the work." The work could take 16 to 18 hours. "A large amount of water from the pipe has to be drained out before starting the work," he explained.

The main pipeline enters the city at two points — Kothanur Dinne (near Puttenahalli Lake) and Hegganahalli (near Beggars' Colony). Water is then pumped to ground-level reservoirs across Bengaluru, he said. Areas that get water through the Cauvery Water Stage IV (Phase-I) will be affected, he added.

The BWSSB had planned to take up the work two months ago. "The leak was minimal then. But we could not take it up because of Covid and labour shortage," he said.

'Transgenders given low-quality ration kits'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE state government failed to provide sufficient and quality ration to transgenders during the pandemic to the transgender community in Bengaluru, says a report released by the Alternative Law Forum (ALF).

The report, titled 'Asserting dignity in times of COVID-19', on transgender communities' experience of Covid in Bengaluru, prepared by human rights activist Rumi Harish and ALF research consultant Sunil Mohan, spoke of apprehension on part of the state to provide ration to people without ration cards. It also explained about "BBMP's deep-rooted bias towards the community" which was revealed when substandard ration kits, filled with germs and insects, were distributed to some transgender persons.

The report called for attention towards unemployment, economic inequality, discrimination, mental health issues and challenges faced by the community when they tried to carry out relief work on their own.

It said that all government welfare schemes, including relief work during Covid, are based on heteronormative nuclear families comprising a father, a mother and two to three children. "The reality is, many queer or trans persons don't live in such family systems which is recognised through a ration card by the government. In Hamams (a house where many transgenders live together), there are 'chelas' with their 'gurus' and sisters in their tradition.

"There will be different numbers in such alternative or chosen families which the government does not consider and understand. So, a relief kit made for four or five people of a heteronormative family is not appropriate for trans or queer families. This lack of understanding restricted the number of people from queer and trans families who could avail relief support," an excerpt read.

An example given in the report said that an organisation that works for assigned female at birth trans and queer communities shared that BBMP insisted on clicking photos of the relief kits it provided to these communities and their families. Hearing this, the organisation decided to return the kits to BBMP. Firstly, the quality of the kits was below edible standards and secondly, this particular community is more vulnerable than the assigned male at birth transgender communities, hence many of them did not want to be outed in the name of getting relief kits.

"The inability to move people living with HIV particularly hit hard as the access to medicines was a matter of survival and it was difficult to get to the hospitals to access the medicines," the report added.

> **The inability to move people living with HIV, particularly hit hard as the access to medicines was a matter of survival and it was difficult to get to the hospitals to access the medicines**
>
> The report

Heavy traffic a huge challenge to commuters, police, civic bodies

MANJU SHETTAR @Bengaluru

BENGALURU has been witnessing huge volumes of erratic traffic on the roads with private vehicle owners and motorists hitting the road in large numbers with the state government ushering in the Unlock 2.0 on June 21.

Lane indiscipline, signal jumping, over-speeding, wrong-side overtaking, wrong parking and a whole range of traffic violations are back with a vengeance, as if motorists, who were cooped up indoors due to Covid restrictions for over a month.

A harassed motorist said, "It is as if they have lost touch with driving and forgotten traffic rules! It is horrible for disciplined motorists."

Since April 27, motorists — with the exception of those delivering essential services — had been restricted from hitting the road. But with restrictions lifted considerably, major arterial stretches of Bengaluru, including Hosur Road, Outer Ring Road, Tumakuru Road, Kanakapura Road and Bannerghatta Road are witnessing chaotic traffic for the last one week. Even interior roads and Central Business District are jam-packed.

Prakash Gowda, a resident of CV Raman Nagar, said, "I used to travel by Metro from Baiyyappanahalli to MG Road, but stopped because of the Covid second wave and I don't want to take the risk. I recently bought a new car to avoid using public transport." Not just Gowda, several others too are buying private vehicles fearing catching the infection if they travelled on Metro or the BMTC buses, which have resumed services, pointed out traffic experts. Another motorist Puneet Kumar, a resident of Indira Nagar, does not trust public transport because of their lack of reliability and is out on his two-wheeler after 7 pm as traffic is lesser then.

MN Srihari, an expert from Transportation Infrastructure Planning Systems, says the city has more than 1.1 crore vehicles and most of the roads are still in a bad condition, triggering traffic jams as people who continue to work from offices are trying to reach their workplaces by taking different routes. He said that ongoing Smart City works have been delayed due to problems in procuring materials and workforce availability, while the traffic police are unable to handle the situation, and the traffic mess continues.

Major arterial stretches like Hosur Road and Tumakuru Road are witnessing chaotic traffic for the last one week | EXPRESS

NEW COSTS

Pay maintenance charges for new BDA layouts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BEGINNING this financial year, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has introduced maintenance charges ranging between ₹100 and ₹300, for its recently developed and upcoming layouts. The amount varies depending on the property dimensions.

A senior BDA official told *The New Indian Express*, "This fee will only apply to the five layouts that are with BDA and are yet to be handed over to BBMP after completion. Owners of flats as well as sites need to pay these maintenance charges." The billing would be made annually, along with the property tax charges levied annually and has been done in the recently issued bill.

The cess being levied will be used for street lights, garbage clearance and other maintenance activity, he said. This will apply to the BDA layouts in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, Arkavathy, Sir M Visvesvaraiah, Banashankari Stage VI and Anjanapura.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

28th June: My key sector of the zodiac today is Virgo, a sign particularly important in the Christian religion, including in ancient traditions in Kerala. In former times it was always associated with the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and when artists painted her, they often placed a star on her shoulder. This was bright Spica, the most auspicious of Virgo's stars.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You have reached the end of a stressful and challenging phase and you should take advantage of increasingly relaxed conditions to recharge your batteries. Let me emphasise the message by pointing out that you'll be back in the fray next month.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The Sun is about to add its help and support to that already offered by Mercury and Venus. As long as you can avoid the temptation to give someone a taste of their own medicine, this should be a positive and relatively contented time. Keep a sharp eye on potential financial problems, though.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Like many of your friends and associates, you are moving towards the end of a period that may have been rather upsetting, not to say traumatic. The general trend of events has been in your favour, and it will be pleasant to run into more restful circumstances.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The entire period is one of change and circumstances will alternate between challenging and harmonious phases, both of which are necessary to your progress. You have now moved into a positive period, so please be appreciative. After all, it might be a no old cliché but every cloud really does have a silver lining.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
By the end of the week the planets will be focusing on regions of your chart associated with your major long-term ambitions. By all means press ahead with plans which are already underway, but at the same time you must open your eyes to the future and trust in yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The Moon is setting up a slightly uncertain mood, possibly because you're being forced to look at events from an emotional perspective rather than through your normal analytical spectacles. One other word of advice: as stress rises, so you have to look after your physical health, otherwise you'll burn yourself up.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Turn away from the complications of personal relationships and emotional entanglements, and concentrate on more worldly pursuits for a change. As a matter of interest, there is still great scope for improvement in your financial situation, perhaps because a friend points you in the right direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Close and intimate partners will be playing an ever greater role in your life over the coming week or so. You really must try to be more tolerant than usual of other people's little foibles and fancies. You see, if you give your understanding now, you'll receive support and loyalty later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Someone may be trying to get the better of you, possibly at work. There is nothing wrong with this, as a little healthy competition will help you get your own act together. You have a little over a week in which to take an important personal decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Excellent creative influences suggest that you must bring a healthy dose of spontaneity to all your affairs, including work. It's a positive time, not one to wallow in self-doubt. You'll be considering the legal implications of your plans, and contemplating the moral high ground.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The pressure is building up in regions of your solar chart closely connected to all that is most fundamental to your existence. A sentimental trip or nostalgic investigation of your roots is likely some time soon. When it comes, go all the way.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You will be breaking through your natural shyness to an increasing extent before long. Such is the power and quality of your ideas that you must share them with people or risk a feeling of frustration. And then you'll end up doubting your real, undeniable talents. And that would never do.

THE PHANTOM

COME HOME AND READ THESE, KIT WALKER....
Falk 5/22
BEFORE I STOP CARING THAT I MIGHT JEOPARDIZE YOUR COVER IN THE HIMALAYAS....
NEXT: NEW ADVENTURE!

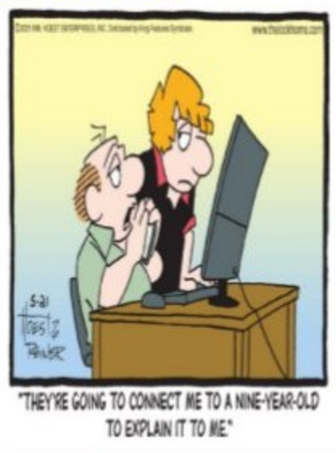
HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

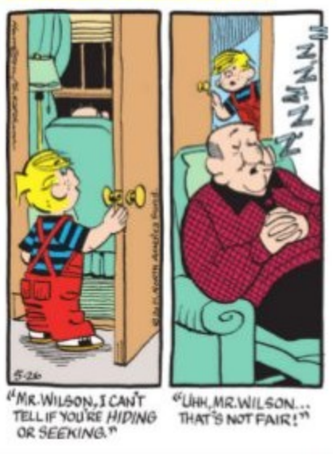
BLONDIE

DEAR, DID YOU TURN YOUR PHONE OFF WHEN YOU LEFT THE OFFICE AGAIN?
YES
WELL, THE BOSS CALLED ME TO TELL YOU HE NEEDS YOU BACK AT YOUR DESK RIGHT AWAY
AND I THOUGHT TURNING OFF MY PHONE WAS FOOLPROOF!

LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

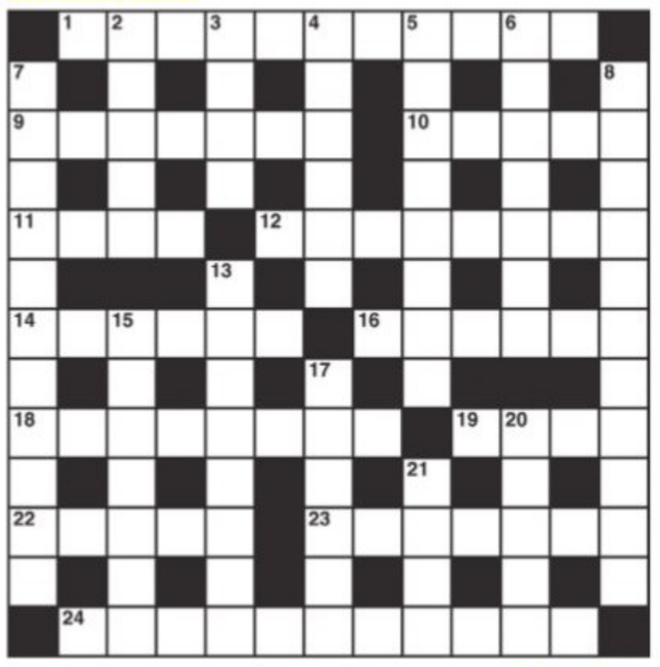
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	2		5	7	8		3	4
		8						2
		5	4	3		1		
4				9	3		7	
			6	5	7			
	9		8	1				3
		1		4	9	5		
6						9		
9	5		7	2	6		8	

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	2	1	4	5	8	6	3	7
5	3	6	7	2	9	4	1	8
8	7	4	6	3	1	5	2	9
2	6	9	5	4	7	3	8	1
3	5	8	1	6	2	7	9	4
1	4	7	8	9	3	2	5	6
7	8	5	3	1	4	9	6	2
4	9	3	2	8	6	1	7	5
6	1	2	9	7	5	8	4	3

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Fanciful aim maybe to drink tea; possibly about four (11)
9 Loiters around Portuguese resort (7)
10 Whom some call a heavenly being (5)
11 Goodbye to depression (4)
12 Overall advice to the gardener with poor soil (3-5)
14 The occupant is at home with his wife (6)
16 Go into service? (4,2)
18 The odds are that it's almost lunchtime (3-2-3)
19 Where to see the Taj Mahal in a gracious setting (4)
22 Moslem leader said to be virtuous (5)
23 Break into or break under it (7)
24 It rises or falls to some degree (11)

DOWN

2 Where drivers stop (5)
3 Habit to boast about (4)
4 Famous London columnist (6)
5 It can let actors down on stage (4,4)
6 He was bound to serve his master (7)
7 Request from a confident operator or an eager heir? (5,2,2,2)
8 He checks the last move when he wins (5,6)
13 Is he in no hurry to act? (8)
15 Not a subject put on in advance (7)
17 Colour of one doing badly (6)
20 Reading between the lines perhaps (5)
21 Pen note for doctors to look at (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Salute, 4 Accurate, 9 Adroit, 10 Ordinary, 12 Crop, 13 Eider, 14 Move, 17 Paratroopers, 20 Person of note, 23 Ovid, 24 Sheer, 25 Afar, 28 Take time, 29 Cannon, 30 Meekness, 31 Abodes.

Down: 1 Seascape, 2 Larboard, 3 Toil, 5 Corresponded, 6 Unit, 7 Amazon, 8 Elysee, 11 Pilot schemes, 15 Steer, 16 Craft, 18 Confined, 19 Bearings, 21 Bottom, 22 Pickle, 26 Stun, 27 Jamb.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAHSS

CHNEE

GPDOAA

NPHOCO

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Oh my gosh! You got that guy behind me posing.
That's funny! I didn't mean to.
4/30
WHEN SHE UNKNOWINGLY TOOK A PIC OF THE FLEXING BODYBUILDER, IT WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** AGAIN GECKO THORAX OUTBID
ANSWER: In "The Wizard of Oz," when Toto escaped from Miss Gulch, she thought — DOGGONE IT

With the third wave expected to set in around October, BBMP is focusing on strengthening medical response and availability of hospital and Covid care beds for children. The idea is to be prepared, said Randeep D, Special Commissioner, Health, in an exclusive interview with TNIE.

Minister DVS distributes ₹1L to Covid victims' kin

ENS @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister **DV Sadananda Gowda** on Sunday distributed Rs 1 lakh each to the next of kin of families of those who had died due to Covid, at an elaborate function in KR Puram, Bengaluru. In all, 118 persons who were identified as being the next of kin of Covid victims, were given the cheques.

The amount of Rs 1.18 crore was borne by realtor-turned-politician, UDD minister Byrati Basavaraj. Basavaraj said that CM BS Yediyurappa would participate in a programme shortly where 400-plus families of Covid victims would be identified and given cheques of Rs 1 lakh each.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka said the government had got funeral rites and asti-visarjan done as per traditional norms for more than 1,600 unclaimed bodies of Covid victims. He said he had personally participated on behalf of the state government. DyCM Laxman Savadi and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai appreciated Byrati Basavaraj for also distributing about 1 lakh food kits in his constituency.

Union cabinet reshuffle raises hopes, two state MPs may make it

Names of Udasi, Shobha, Prathap Simha in the air; new MP will be Angadi replacement

BANSY KALAPPA
@Bengaluru/Dharwad

THERE is much speculation about the proposed Union cabinet reshuffle, and who could make it from Karnataka. Names of several MPs are being tossed around, based on caste and power equations.

The names of Haveri-Gadag MP Shivakumar Udasi, Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP Shobha Karandlaje and Mysore-Kodagu MP Prathap Simha, are doing the rounds. Karnataka has two ministers in the Union Cabinet -- D V Sadananda Gowda and Pralhad Joshi -- while technically, Nirmala Sitharaman is a Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka.

BJP circles are abuzz with talk that a Lingayat will be included to replace former minister Suresh Angadi, who passed away recently.

There was also talk that there could be an outside chance that a Dalit will be accommodated.

It may be recalled that Angadi, a four-term MP, had served as Union Minister of State for Railways for about 16 months, and passed away due to Covid last September. His wife Mangala Angadi was elected Belagavi MP.

Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda told TNIE that it is the prerogative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and they can only "wait and see". Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi sought to end all speculation by pointing out that no one will know for sure, at this point. He said the Prime Minister will decide and there is no need to speculate unnecessarily.

Shivakumar Udasi, a Lingayat leader from North Karnataka, is among the hopefuls. Udasi's father, Hangal MLA CM Udasi, passed away recently. Shivamogga MP B Y Raghavendra may not make it because his father B S Yediyurappa is Chief Minister, and this may work to his disadvantage in finding a spot in the Union cabinet.

Sources said it was entirely speculative because both are Vokkaligas and if they have to be accommodated, one minister has to be first dropped, and that looks unlikely.

With speculation that a Dalit may find place in the cabinet , the names of Chitradurga MP A Narayanswamy and Gulbarga MP Dr Umesh Jadhav, who defeated political giant Mallikarjun Kharge, doing the rounds.

Central cabinet expansion is the prerogative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We can only wait and see who is in and who is out

D V Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister

EXPRESS READ

DKS fans raise slogans, call him future CM

MYSURU: Despite KPCC president D K Shivakumar making it clear to party leaders and workers not to project anyone as the chief minister candidate, his fans turned up in a good number during his visit to Chamarajanagar and raised slogans calling him as the future chief minister. Hundreds of partyworkers thronged Hanur and Kollegal towns to cheer their leader. Though Shivakumar requested partymen to remain cool, they continued to raise slogans when he returned after calling on family members of Hanur Block Congress president Kempaiah, who succumbed to the pandemic. Meanwhile, Covid regulations went for a toss during the KPCC chief's visit to Chamarajanagar as workers and public turned up in huge number sans social distance. Many did not even wear masks and were linked up to wave at their leader, while a few others were desperately trying their luck for a selfie with the KPCC chief.

GEARING UP

A municipal worker sanitises the KSRTC suburban bus stand, ahead of bus operations restarting from there, in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

KPCC chief D K Shivakumar hands over a cheque for Rs 1 lakh to family members of a victim of the oxygen tragedy in Chamarajanagar on Sunday | EXPRESS

'CM afraid of jinx, skipped meet with Ch'nagar families'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

ALLEGING that Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had avoided visiting Chamarajanagar district as he was afraid of losing his seat, KPCC President D K Shiva Kumar said he preferred to skip meeting the families of 36 Covid patients who died in the recent oxygen shortage tragedy.

He called on the families during his day-long tour in the border district of Chamarajanagar. "I feel that Yediyurappa should have visited the district and consoled the families. Since no one from the government visited the families, the Congress has decided to go to people in grief," he said.

Yediyurappa, based on an intelligence report that people's outrage could lead to tension and revolt, had skipped visiting Chamarajanagar, he said. This is in keeping with the legendary jinx that whichever chief minister visits the district, loses power. Almost all chief ministers have avoided visiting Chamarajanagar.

Shivakumar claimed that people and public opinion are against the government for its handling of the pandemic. People have lost faith in the government as it has failed to act against any minister or officers for the oxygen tragedy, he said. He termed the 36 deaths as "murders committed by the government".

He thanked the High Court for constituting an inquiry committee which helped the kin of the deceased get Rs 2 lakh, but said that only 24 families got the relief amount, and the rest are still running from pillar to post for death certificates. The Congress will take up their case, he added.

According to him, 3,27,975 people have died due to Covid between January 1 and June 13 in Karnataka, and accused the government of manipulating the figure to 29,000.

Dalit CM chorus gets louder

The Karnataka Congress leadership woes seem to be far from over. While Opposition leader Siddaramaiah's supporters and Shivakumar's supporters are vocal about their support, there is an equally strong counter-narrative being built from a third group.

Sources said that senior Congressmen former Union minister KH Muniyappa, former national general secretary B K Hariprasad and former DyCM Dr G Parameshwara held a closed-door meeting to talk about the reality of a Dalit becoming Chief Minister in Karnataka for the first time in 2023, provided the Congress gets the required numbers.

PATIL FLAYS 'MIGRANTS VS NATIVES' DEBATE IN CONG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

LEADERS positioning themselves as potential chief minister candidates in the Congress is becoming common in the party. The latest to aspirants' list is former minister M B Patil. "I am also an aspirant for CM post like others," he said and cautioned that such wishes should not turn into an act of greed.

Patil, who was in Mysuru to pay condolensces to Suttur seer Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji after the death of latter's mother recently, told mediapersons that he would not comment on the issue as per instructions of party state incharge Randeep Singh Surjewala.

He denied any infighting in the party over the matter and said the party will fight the upcoming assembly elections unitedly to realise the target of winning 150 seats.

He, however, flayed statements classifying Congressmen as migrants and natives which was recently raised by state party chief D K Shivakumar in a likely rebuttal to party MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan who has been projecting Siddaramaiah as the party's CM candidate.

Former minister M B Patil seeks the blessings of Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji at Suttur Mutt in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

"It's wrong to bring such a distinction. Once they are in Congress, they are all Congressis. We are all in unison," he said. The Babaleshwar MLA said winning elections is priority for the party and the CM candidate will be decided on recommendations by the high command.

When asked about a likely leadership vacuum among Lingayats after B S Yediyurappa, Patil said there is no doubt that Yediyurappa is a tall leader, but there are second line of leaders from the community including himself, Khandre as well as others like Bommai, Yatnal and even new names like Bellad in BJP.

He added that it's up to the people to decide to position a leader as CM and not through self certification. The former minister also pointed out that vaccination coverage is the prime way of fighting subsequent pandemic waves and said both State and Central governments have failed in it.

Former corporator's murder: Sister-in-law, nephew arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE West Division police probing the murder of former BBMP corporator, **Rekha Kadiresh**, on Sunday arrested two of her relatives in connection with the case. According to police, Rekha's sister-in-law Mala and her son, Arun, were held, after they were questioned by investigators.

The police have so far arrested five other suspects - Peter, Surya, Stephen, Ajay, and Purushottam - in connection with the murder.

"Mala is the elder sister of Rekha's husband, Kadiresh. Based on the information shared by the arrested persons, Mala and her son were questioned. It is found that the killers were in touch with the mother and son, and hence, they were called in," a senior police officer said.

It is learnt that Peter was nursing a grudge against Rekha. "Peter was close to Kadiresh and the latter treated him well. But after Kadiresh was murdered, Rekha was not giving him any importance. She had also insulted him on several occasions, and Peter had started hating her. He was approached by the other accused, who were not happy with the way Rekha was treating them too, and the way she was growing. Personal rivalry and jealously seems to be two major motives for the murder," the officer said.

Police teams are also on the lookout for other accused persons, who assisted the accused in the murder.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to the information of the General public that Mrs. Fehmid Iyer Visnagarwala D/o Mr. Saifuddin Hasanally R/at No. D2-1002, L & T South City, Arekere Mico Layout, Bangalore -76, has lost the original Sale deed **dated 13/12/1996 Registered on 29/05/1996 as Document No. BNG(U)-BLR(S)/3884/1996-97, Book I, at page 1 to 12 in the office of Sub Registrar Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** in respect of the property No. 71, Khatha No. 218 situated at Yelenahalli village Begur Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, BBMP Ward No. 192, Measuring East to West 40 ft, North to South 60 feet, and bounded on the **East by :** Property No. 70, **West by :** Property No. 72, **North by:** Property No. 66, **South by :** Road.

The original of the above said sale deed is lost. A Complaint in this behalf has also lodged on 26/06/2021 Puttenahalli police station, Bangalore.

If any person/s or any institution that by chance get possession of such document may kindly return the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and also even if any person/s having any right, title, claim or interest over the schedule property, the same should be intimated to the undersigned with in a 15 days from today with documents in support thereof.

M. MUNE GOWDA
Advocate and Consultant
No. 64/1, 2nd Floor, S.M. Plaza,
Dr. D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi,
Bangalore - 04. Mobile: 9342878205

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intend to purchase the schedule property from its owner Smt. Shruthi J Raju W/o Dr. N.A. Madhusudhan Raju. The said owner has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the schedule property.

Notice is hereby given that any person or authority who claims any right, title, interest of any nature or any lien, charges of enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and / or has objections of any nature to purchase the schedule property may communicate their objections in writing along with all documentary proof to undersigned within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no person/authorizing has any objections, right, title, interest and claims in the schedule property and accordingly our client would proceed with purchase of the schedule property from the said owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.15, formed in converted land bearing Sy.No.154/5 & 154/15, Katha No.610, H.L. No.677, situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, within the revenue jurisdictional limits of BBMP, admeasuring East to West: 36 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet and bounded as follows:

East by : Private Property,
West by : Road,
North by : Site bearing No.14.
South by : Site bearing No.16.

Manjula .B, Advocate.
M/s.KSR Associates
#53/1, 1st Floor, Guttahalli Main Road, D.T. Street, 8th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560003,
Ph-8095521852, 6362653681
Bangalore Date : 28.06.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public may note that, my Client **Mr. Harji Ram** S/o. Labu Ram G, is intended to purchase the schedule property from its Owners 1. **Smt. K.C. Manjula** W/o. K.T.Venkatarangappa, 2. **Smt. Hemavathi** D/o.K.T.Venkatarangappa and 3. **Smt. Meenakshi K.V** D/o. K.T.Venkatarangappa.

The owners has represented and informed to my client that, they have lost the Original Sale deed dt:12-10-1987 registered vide document No: 5415/1987-88 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bengaluru South Taluk executed by Sri.Chikkanarayanappa S/o. Late Munireddy and Sri.Hanumaiah S/o. Late. Muniswamappa in favour of Smt. K.C. Manjula W/o. K.T. Venkatarangappa of schedule property for which they have given a complaint to the jurisdictional police regarding to lost of sale deed and other documents.

If any person/s have any claim over the schedule property the same may be intimated in writing along with documents to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this publication, in the absence of any objection within the above said period, it shall be deemed that, there is no objection and the sale deed will be executed in my clients favor without any further reference in this regard.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the Residential converted Property bearing Sy.No:362, Having E-Katha No.15020300100300650, Situated at Kaggalipura Village, Kanakapura Main Road, Uttarahalli Hobali, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 7.01 Meter (23 Feet) North to South 12.19 Meter (40 feet) totally 85.97 square Meter (920 square feet), along with 131.92 square meter (1420 Square feet) RCC roofed house totally measuring about 1420 sq. ft, Bounded on the following,

East by: Forest Range Office, West by: Hanumaiah's Remaining Property, North by: K.J.Rajashekar House property, South by: Bannerugatta Road.

MANJU H.M, Advocate,
No:161, A Block, Behind Axis Bank ATM, Kaggalipura, Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560082. Mob No.9008005377

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s). /Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Jins Joseph, Mrs.Victoria Jins **(Prospect No. 760057)**	**22-June-2021 Rs. 50,85,463.00/-** (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Flat No.108, First Floor, admeasuring 1550 sq feet Spring Leaf, Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, 562106, Karnataka, India

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office : IIFL HFL "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore Date: 28.06.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and film trade in particular that one of Our Client is in the process of acquiring from **ICHAIS PRODUCTIONS LLP,** having its place of business at 1, Chilavannur Road, Kadavanthra, Erankulam, Kerala 682020 the remake rights **("Remake Rights")** of the Malayalam language film titled **"ONE"** starring Mammootty and others, Written by Bobby Cherian and Sanjay Cherian, directed by S. Santhosh Kumar, and released on 26th March, 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the **"Original Film"**), to remake the Original Film in Hindi and all other Indian languages **save and except** Malayalam, language **("Authorized Languages").**

Post-acquisition of the Remake Rights of the Original Film, Our Client has the sole and exclusive right to make and produce the remake films **("Remake Films")** in the Authorised Languages, the derivative works, dubbed and subtitled versions of the Remake Films in any and all languages of the universe by virtue of Remake Rights; and distribute and exploit the Remake Films on all modes, medium and formats (whether existing now and arising in future) throughout the universe in perpetuity.

ANY person, firm and/or company having any claim, of whatsoever nature, against or in relation to the said Original Film and/or the said Remake Rights by way of assignment, pledge, gift, mortgage, charge, sale, litigation, and/or transfer of any kind whatsoever are hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary proof / evidence (certified true copies) of the aforesaid claim at the address mentioned herein below, within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication hereof, otherwise the acquisition will be completed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any will be considered as waived for which we shall not be liable or responsible, which may please be noted. Claims without any documentary proof and /or any claims received after the expiry of the stipulated **14 days** shall not be entertained.

Place : **Mumbai.**
Date : **June 28, 2021**

sd/-
Naik Naik & Company
116-B-Mittal Tower,
B Wing, 11th Floor, Nariman Point,
Mumbai - 400 021.

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Bangalore-560114
Tel : 080-26482220, 26482216

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest Action Notice-In connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers with in the branches mentioned herein below-classified as NPA.

We have to inform you that you whose Name & Address mentioned here in below had availed following credit facilities from **Union Bank of India, Akshay Nagar Branch,** offering the property, mentioned here in below. Since you have failed to repay the loan amounts as agreed by you, your following mentioned account/s has/have been classified as Non Performing Assets [NPA] as on the date mentioned herein below.

The individual notice has been also already sent to you demanding the due amount

1. Name and Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor: (1) Mrs. Latha.C, Kishore Residency, No. 26, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560068. **Another Address at :** No.41, Brindavan Nagar, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple Tavarekere, Bangalore-560029, **(2) Mrs. Kannadasan,** Kishore Residency, No. 26, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore-560068. **Another Address at :** No.41, Brindavan Nagar, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Temple Tavarekere, Bangalore-560029.

Name of Facility Amount Due

S. No.	Facility/Loan	Limits Sanctioned (Rs in Lakhs)	Outstanding Balance (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	CHOME-560631000323994	Rs. 29.00	Rs.24.57
2	CVPOD-560361000022911	Rs. 29.00	Rs. 31.91

Amount Outstanding : Rs. 58,66,771.44 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One and Forty Four Paise only) **as on 12.05.2021** together with interest.

Classified as NPA as on. 31.03.2021 **Demand Date : 12.05.2021**

Description of the Secured Assets:

Property No. 26, Khata No. 9/5, 2nd Main, 5th Cross, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli-Bangalore-560068.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law. Your kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 25.06.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. ZINNAIRA UMERUDDEEN** W/o. MOHAMMED WASEEM SAIF, resident of No. 36, 1st Main, Kempaiah Block, J C Nagar, Bangalore - 560 006, have changed my daughter's name from **ZARMEENA ABEER SAIF** to **ABEER WASEEM SAIF** vide affidavit dated 25.06.2021 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.V. Mani, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M. Sajith,** S/o Raman Bhattathiry, age 46 years, R/at C-106, Cassia, Brigade Millennium, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-78 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **JAYANTY SAIDURGA SAJITH** and **SAIDURGA SAJITH** are one and the same and belongs to same person i.e. my daughter only, now I have changed my daughter's name to **SAIDURGA SAJITH,** hereafter she shall be known and called as **SAIDURGA SAJITH** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th June 2021, sworn before Advocate and Notary **N. NAGAPPA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. Hajeera Nasrulla Abdul Khader,** W/o. Syed Shoaib, aged about 28 years, Residing at 13/3, Church Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to **Mrs. HAJEERA NASRULLA** vide Affidavit Dated 26-06-2021, before the Notary C. Sharada, Bangalore.

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 28.06.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

3,604 CASES REPORTED TODAY

4,272 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	28,34,630
YESTERDAY	28,31,026

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
89	115

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
7,699	6,126

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
1,01,042	1,05,226

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.37%
YESTERDAY	8.40%

The day positivity rate – 2.18% – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.22%
YESTERDAY	1.22%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	95.20%
YESTERDAY	94.05%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 27, 2021, a total of 28,34,630 cases have been reported in 1 year and 107 days...

2,17,25,763 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	35,51,271
Health care workers 1st dose	7,49,217
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,98,336
Frontline workers 1st dose	8,19,659
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,48,130
Age 18-45 1st dose	58,26,150
Age 18-45 2nd dose	74,625
Above 45 1st dose	1,07,79,466
Above 45 2nd dose	27,30,180

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

788 BENGALURU URBAN

77 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: 7	Chamarajanagar: 54	Dakshina Kannada: 454	Hassan: 322	Kolar: 101	Raichur: 19	Udupi: 97
Ballari: 26	Chikkaballapura: 40	Davanagere: 118	Haveri: 13	Koppal: 9	Ramanagara: 15	Uttara Kannada: 57
Belagavi: 143	Chikkamagaluru: 126	Dharwad: 46	Kalaburagi: 36	Mandya: 109	Shivamogga: 177	Vijayapura: 9
Bidar: 8	Chitradurga: 22	Gadag: 18	Kodagu: 115	Mysuru: 478	Tumakuru: 116	Yadgir: 4

BBMP girds up to tackle Covid-19 third wave

Health commissioner says ground work on to scale up infra, take up rigorous testing, plan home isolation protocol

IFFATH FATHIMA@ Bengaluru

WITH the third wave expected to set in around October, BBMP is focusing on strengthening medical response and availability of hospital and Covid care beds for children. The idea is to be prepared, said Randeep D, Special Commissioner, Health, in an interview with *TNIE*.

Randeep, who recently took charge as health commissioner, said BBMP would be prepared for a scenario where more children need medical attention. "A meeting was held with paediatricians of prominent hospitals in Mahadevapura zone, and inputs were taken. This will be undertaken in other zones too. The State Task Force would give us directions and it's also proposed to have a committee of paediatricians in an advisory role," said Randeep.

Covid Care Centres (CCCs) will be reoriented to have child-care-specific beds, and there is a plan to upgrade some maternity homes with paediatric beds. "It is also decided to work on proper home isolation, and monitoring protocol for home-isolated children," he added.

Asked if more teams would be set up for containment, isolation and testing, Randeep pointed out that testing, contact tracing and containment teams have been functioning continuously, and there is no plan to downscale these operations. "In fact, perimeter testing around the area where positive cases are detected will help in early identification of clusters. Epidemiologists in each zone have been tasked with predicting a surge, by analysing the present infection pattern or clusters," he added.

A health worker collects swab samples of a boy in Bengaluru | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

On vaccination being key to countering the third wave, BBMP plans to achieve a target of 1 lakh vaccinations per day. However, it is contingent on timely supply and delivery to vaccination sites. BBMP's present stock of Covishield vials is around 33,000, and Covaxin around 35,000.

Randeep disclosed that door-to-door survey was taken up to identify vaccinated households for planning future vaccination drives. "Four vaccine vans have been kept at BBMP head office to ensure timely delivery of vaccine stocks. We are involving NGOs and RWAs to mobilise the vulnerable population for vaccination. PHC-based vaccination for those aged above 45 years, and worksite-based vaccination for priority groups is being planned," he said.

With one Delta-Plus variant case found in Bengaluru, Randeep said that BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta has prioritised genome sequencing, and BBMP is taking it up with private labs on a pilot basis. At present, around eight samples are being genome sequenced per day. Subsequently, this would be taken up in more labs with a target of 5 per cent of positive samples daily.

He said the focus is now on consolidating learnings from the second wave, and improving response time. "The Chief Commissioner has always emphasised getting the basics right— targeted testing and tracking, physical triage, regular home visits and effective containment measures. We are using the low caseload to improve systems," he added.

Four vaccine vans have been kept at BBMP head office to ensure timely delivery of vaccine stocks. We are involving NGOs and RWAs to mobilise the vulnerable population for vaccination

Randeep D, Special Commissioner, Health, BBMP

GET VAXXED

CHANGES IN MENSTRUAL CYCLE AFTER JAB? DON'T WORRY, SAY DOCS

IFFATH FATHIMA@ Bengaluru

WHILE headache, pain in the injected region, fever, fatigue and nausea are the common side-effects after Covid-19 vaccination, some women are even experiencing changes in their menstrual cycle after getting the jab.

Although there is no study to link the two, experts say they are seeing cases of women reporting changes in their menstrual cycle like experiencing late or early periods and heavy bleeding, after vaccination.

The New Indian Express spoke to a 35-year-old software engineer, who said she experienced "the most painful periods" after getting the jab. "I got my first dose of Covishield in March and my second dose in May. My first dose was days after my periods... but my second dose was during my periods. It was a horrifying experience. It was painful and I had bleeding for more than 10 days," the techie from Jayanagar added. Thinking if it could be a side-effect of the vaccine, she consulted a gynaecologist, who said she had patients coming to her complaining of a similar problem after vaccination.

Doctors point out that there is no scientific evidence to show that vaccination can alter cycles and bleeding patterns. They, however, say it could be related to stress.

Dr Divya L, obstetrician and gynaecologist, Prakriya Hospital, said, "We are increasingly seeing many women complaining of altered menstrual cycle and bleeding patterns following Covid vaccination. There is no scientific research yet to know if vaccines are directly affecting menstruation... but one probable reason could be that vaccination affects the immune system of the body which causes the uterine lining to shed, resulting in spotting and early periods, or heavy bleeding. We had a case of a 29-year-old, who experienced spotting after vaccination, and another case of a 31-year-old who got her periods 40 days after vaccination. The patients were reassured and sent back... treatment was not prescribed."

A senior doctor from Vani Vilas Hospital said, "The issue hasn't been spoken about and many people are unaware... there is no research done to show that vaccination can alter the menstrual cycle. However, it is possible that stress or disrupted sleep or potentially disrupted body temperature could affected the menstrual cycle. Many are also experiencing stress and anxiety due to the pandemic."

However, experts added that all these could be temporary side-effects and the benefits of vaccination are more compared to such issues and women should take the jab without having any second thought.

We are increasingly seeing women complaining of altered menstrual cycle following Covid vaccination. There is no scientific research yet to know if vaccines are directly affecting menstruation

Dr Divya L, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Prakriya Hospital, Bengaluru

At 89, death toll lowest in 70 days

ENS @ Bengaluru

AFTER close to 70 days, Covid-19 related fatalities dropped below the hundred mark with 89 people succumbing to the virus in the state on Sunday. With this, the total death toll now stands at 34,743. Mortality rate, however, has remained the same for the last three days at 1.22%. On Saturday, 115 people had died of Covid in the state. In Bengaluru, 11 deaths were reported on Sunday, maintaining the mortality rate at 1.28% for the tenth consecutive day. Karnataka reported 3,604 new cases on Sunday, which took the state tally to 28,34,630.

Demand for IVIG up as kids develop MIS-C

RANJANI MADHAVAN@ Bengaluru

THE demand for Intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIG) needed for treating post Covid-19 multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) has gone up.

Symptoms of MIS-C includes fever, reddish rash over the body, red eyes and severe abdominal pain and occurs 2-6 weeks after Covid infection. It is an immune reaction of the body to the virus.

IVIG are antibodies against certain viruses that are injected into the patients and help them combat several infections. In order to prepare IVIG, a pooled plasma is taken from several donors to get a good population mix.

"During the first and second wave, we are seeing a lot of children who are developing MIS-C that can be cured only with IVIG treatment. The life-saving drug can prove extremely crucial when the coronavirus impacts the heart muscles. We usually give a 2 gm dosage to children who are affected with MIS-C," said Dr Chetan Ginigeri, Lead Consultant, Department of Paediatrics and Neonatology, Aster CMI Hospital, where the demand has gone up by 3-4 times at the hospital's ICU as they have treated 20 kids in the last three weeks. As the children with MIS-C are extremely sick, any shortage can prove to be fatal and hence, while the second wave is subsiding, Dr Ginigeri said hospitals need to start preparation for it.

IVIG has been used for Kawasaki disease which is similar to MIS-C, said Dr Chandrika Bhat, Consultant, Paediatric Rheumatology Services, Rainbow Children's Hospital.

"Simply put, with this good antibodies block the bad antibodies. It resolves inflammation and the demand for IVIG has gone up. We need to use it judiciously, so there is no potential shortage of it in the future. Immunoglobulins are filtered from blood content and it is not blood-group specific, which is an advantage. If MIS-C causes cardiac dysfunction, owing to inflammation, it leads to fatality. However, this is very rare," Dr Bhat added.

IVIG, along with steroids, was used to treat the initial cases of MIS-C in the UK . "We also see that the response to both these medications, even in the sickest of children, is quite dramatic," said Dr Shivakumar Shamarao, Consultant, Paediatric intensive care unit, Manipal Hospitals.

"We, along with several other centres in the country, are seeing more cases of MIS-C compared to the first wave and therefore the usage of IVIG has gone up. It is not exactly clear if IVIG is needed for all cases of MIS-C as it has a varied spectrum of illness. One category seems to be mild ones where they have self-limiting fever, rash with raised inflammatory markers. The second category is Kawasaki disease-like presentation and the third most worrisome category is presentation with heart dysfunction and circulatory shock," Dr Shamarao said.

Mobile testing centres planned at state's border

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IF the RAT result is negative, their samples will be collected for RTPCR and their residential addresses will be noted down before allowing them to travel. They will be asked to be under home quarantine till RTPCR results come out. If travellers test positive for RAT, triaging will be done as per protocol.

"The same protocol will be followed for those travelling from Karnataka to Maharashtra. These rules will be in place till further orders. Mobile Covid testing centres will be set up at border entry points," district officials revealed. The Vijayapura administration has set up checkposts at Dhulkhed and Shiradona, where health professionals and staff of different departments, including police, have been deployed. Deputy Commissioner P Sunil Kumar said, "The chief secretary held a video-conference with the deputy commissioners of border districts of Vijayapura, Belagavi, Bidar, Kalaburagi and Bagalkot. He directed us to take measures like vaccination along border areas and strengthening checkposts."He said, "A letter has also been sent to district officials of Sangli and Solapur in Maharashtra that share the border with Karnataka, asking them to speed up the vaccination drive."

Officials stop a motorist at the inter-state border with Maharashtra in Vijayapura

600 samples sent for genome sequencing amid Delta-Plus fear

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TO contain the spread of the new Covid Delta-Plus variant, the State Government has collected 600 samples and sent them for genome sequencing, said Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday. The results are still awaited.

The state has so far reported two cases of the variant. He said, "Karnataka is in a safe zone with this variant. But Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are facing a serious situation. We have kept districts bordering Kerala and Maharashtra on high alert and conducting random testing of travellers. But it is not up to the expectation, and we are trying to test a maximum number of people. Lakhs of people enter our state from Kerala. Our government has taken the matter seriously and is testing them."

He said that in Bengaluru, 50 lakh people have been vaccinated and no other city in the country has covered these many people. In Karnataka, 40 per cent of the population or 1.85 crore people have taken the first dose and 45 lakh have completed their second shot. Priority has been given to students, healthcare workers, police staff, media persons, parents of children less than 10 years old and others in public domain. Nine children have lost their parents to Covid in Chikkaballapur and they will be adopted. Rs 1 lakh compensation will be given to each of their families and their education expenses will be borne by the government. Other districts too will follow suit, he added.

The investigation into the Chamarajanagar oxygen shortage tragedy is still going on and action will be taken based on the report, he said.

A man teaches his son to ride a bicycle on a deserted SP Road during the weekend curfew, in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

RARE FEAT

Was challenging, says Mangaluru doctor who led first mucor lung surgery

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

DR Klein Dantis, a 35-year-old thoracic surgeon from the coastal city of Mangaluru, was part of the world's first successful mucor lung surgery that took place at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Raipur, early this month.

Raised in Kinnigoli, Klein completed his MBBS and MS in Mangaluru, and superspeciality training at National Institute of TB and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi. He worked for a year at All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Bhopal, before being appointed consultant at AIIMS Raipur.

The challenging surgery which Klein led, along with thoracic surgeon Dr Nitin Kashyap from the same medical institute, has brought them huge recognition, especially in the medical fraternity. Klein told *The New Indian Express* that after the surgery, many such Covid lung infection patients are being referred to the hospital.

Given that pulmonary mucormycosis has a mortality rate of 60-70 per cent, and the patient had a history of tuberculosis and renal transplant, the young doctor said it was very challenging to operate on such a case.

"The lung infection had affected the blood supply between heart and lungs. This was one of first cases of Covid patients with TB and renal transplant, diagnosed and operated on successfully globally," pointed out Dr Klein Dantis.

The patient was discharged within a fortnight and is leading a good life.

Prof Dr Nitin M Nagarkar, Director, CEO, All India Institute of Medical Sciences - Raipur, who has operated on more than 100 naso-orbital mucormycosis patients, congratulated the team of doctors for its success in managing the disease and assured the people of the nation and beyond, that many such challenging cases will be operated on at All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Raipur.

The lung infection had affected the blood supply between heart and lungs. This was one of first cases of Covid patients with TB and renal transplant, diagnosed and operated on successfully globally

Dr Klein Dantis

Magadi Road police arrested a notorious house burglar and seized booty, including 2 kg of silver ornaments worth Rs 7.6 lakh. The accused, Syed Refiq, a resident of KP Agrahara, was involved in six similar cases for the last three months

While waiting for a government nod, officials are now verifying documents and conducting surveys in Changadi insiude MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

With hopes of better life, tribals to shift out of forests

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AFTER nearly two years of persuasion, tribal families and villagers staying inside the core forest areas of Male Mahadeshwara Hills (MM Hills) Wildlife Sanctuary have agreed to move out.

This has come as a positive sign for the Karnataka forest department because the people in Changadi have been staying inside the forest area since the British era, for around 150 years, and have land records to justify their claim. But they agreed after realising the opportunities outside the area and accepting the scheme offered by the department.

MM Hills was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2013 and this is first ever tribal relocation exercise in Chamarajanagar division. Earlier, the forest department had undertaken tribal relocation programmes in Nagarhole, Bandipur and Kali tiger reserves. But over the years, it had come to a standstill, because of legal, financial and political issues, a forest department official said.

Yedukondalu V, Deputy Conservator of Forests, MM Hills, said that the 350 families have agreed to rehabilitate to a village being formed near Hennur Town. "We have identified 450 acres of degraded forest land for these people. Inside the forest, they were spread across 450 acres of land. The CAMPA funds of Rs 40-45 crore will be utilised for the exercise. The final government nod for this is awaited. Till then, the families are coming forward with their documents for verification and surveys are being completed," he said.

> **It is an exercise to reinstate a sense of confidence among the locals and department officials for forest conservation**
>
> –Yedukondalu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, MM Hills

As per the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Ministry of Environment and Forests, two compensation packages are being offered -- a complete cash compensation of Rs 15 lakh or a rehabilitation process, where they get a house and field and hand-holding for employment opportunities. However, some have asked for cash compensation and a home instead. "We are working out all the modalities that can be offered so that the project is successful. It is an exercise to reinstate a sense of confidence among the locals and department officials for forest conservation. It is also a social issue so we are ensuring that the village, which is being created, has all facilities like roads, religious and educational space and common utility services. Once this is successful, it will help others come forward to relocate out of forest areas for better livelihood," Yedukondalu added.

Police conducting de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation programmes, says Loknath Behera

Kerala hotbed of terror recruitment: DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

RADICALISATION is a matter of concern in Kerala and the state police have been taking big efforts to address it by conducting de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation programmes, outgoing state police chief Loknath Behera has said.

The DGP, who will retire on June 30, said in his interactions with television channels that the recruitment of people to the Islamic State (IS) posed concern, but it has come down recently.

"According to the inputs, Kerala is a recruiting ground because the people here are educated and the IS requires engineers and doctors. But we have dealt with it in a systematic way and it has come down," he said.

The police, especially the anti-terrorist squad (ATS), identified vulnerable people and gave them counselling with the help of their parents. "After the exodus of 21 families to IS-controlled areas, we did lots of things. How many went after that? We have formed one of the best ATSs in the country

and it is doing a great job behind the scene. That's why there is not much concern. But we cannot be complacent," said Behera, adding that the police have mounted surveillance on the suspected sleeper cells of terrorist groups.

'Surrender policy extended to Naxals failed'

Behera said the surrender policy extended to the left-wing extremists have failed. "A new global tender has been floated to hire a helicopter that can be used against the naxals. The helicopter will have all facilities, including for shooting. Security of the state is important. If they try to create violence in our area, we will reply strongly," he said.

Behera said he had no qualms about invoking of the stringent UAPA in the state and added that being a law enforcer, he used the act as it was passed by Parliament.

He also mentioned his relationship with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as "professional" and ruled out allegation that he acted as a bridge between the CPM and the BJP.

AMID COVID-19

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN CATTLE A NEW HEADACHE

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

AT a time when people are facing the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle in Karnataka and this has caused concern among farmers. Experts say the Union Government not carrying out the previous round of FMD vaccination owing to Covid-19 has resulted in the outbreak.

Similar to Covid-19, an animal infected with FMD needs to be kept in isolation as the disease — first identified in 1883 — can spread through the cattle's saliva, urine, dung and even air and is highly contagious.

Under the National Animal Disease Control Programme, vulnerable animals, mainly cows and buffaloes, are vaccinated once every six months. The protection period of vaccination is 180 days. In Karnataka, FMD vaccination programme was conducted in April 2020 and then again in October/November 2020. But since then, FMD vaccination drive has not been carried out owing to the pandemic.

Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chauhan said FMD vaccination drive was purely a Government of India programme and it was not done because of the pandemic. The disease, which was found in three districts till a couple of weeks ago, has now spread to nine districts, including Bengaluru Rural, Mandya, Ramanagara, Chikkaballapur, Chamarajanagar and Tumakuru.

"I have now ordered to resume the vaccination drive from the State Government. All cattle in 5 km radius of an infected cattle should be vaccinated. Our officials are trying to bring the situation under control," Chauhan said.

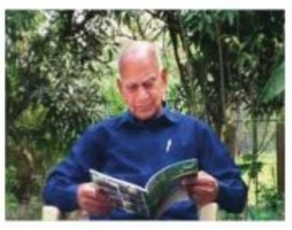
Prof Veeregowda BM of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Science University said that the prevalence of FMD was more in the southern districts of the state where there is high rate of crossbreeding of animals. "In some districts, we see more of native breed and the impact is less. The government is adopting the ring-method of vaccination in which cattle in 5 km radius of an infected animal is vaccinated... this is the right thing to do," he said.

KNOW THE DISEASE

FMD is a contagious viral disease that affects animals and is the most serious livestock disease. It affects animals with divided hoofs including cows, bulls, buffaloes, sheep, goats and even pigs. This could cause serious health complications and sometimes turn fatal. FMD, however, does not affect humans.

Ex-VC hacked to death at home in Odisha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Jharsuguda/Sambalpur



FORMER Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University Prof Dhurba Raj Naik was hacked to death at his residence at Kuaramal village under Laikera police limits of Jharsuguda, sending shockwaves across the State, on Sunday.

The assailant, identified as Prabin Dhurua, a 20-year-old youth from the same village, was later arrested from a nearby forest. Family members told police that Dhurua came to their residence when the 83-year-old Naik had stepped out. He asked the former VC's daughter and son-in-law about his whereabouts and when told that he was not home, Dhurua started abusing both. The family members informed Naik about the incident over phone.

After about 20 minutes, at 11.30 am, Naik arrived at his residence and Dhurua started screaming at him. Soon after, he picked up an axe he had come with and attacked the former VC.

Naik was rushed to a private hospital in Jharsuguda by his family members and neighbours but doctors declared him dead.

Initially, there were reports that the accused was in an inebriated state and asked ₹100 from Naik when he reached home. When he declined and it led to a heated exchange, Dhurua attacked him. The accused apparently knew him from before. However, when police began investigation, it found out from neighbours who allegedly overheard Dhurua saying: "Why did you give the pond to another person and not me?" After this, he went on to assault Naik with an axe.

Jharsuguda SDPO Nirmal Mohapatra said the accused claimed that Naik had given a pond to another person for fishing.

BJP gets into Pondy Cabinet

DEBJANI DUTTA @ Puducherry

FOR the first time in history, the BJP on Sunday entered the citadels of power in Puducherry, with the swearing in of five ministers — two from the BJP and three from the AINRC — of the NDA government led by N Rangasamy. They were sworn in after a delay of one-and-a-half months due to parleys between the BJP and AINRC.

A Namassivayam (BJP), K Lakshminarayanan (AINRC), C Djeacoumar (AINRC), Chandira Priyanga (AINRC) and AK Saravanan Kumar (BJP) were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lt Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan at a simple function held outside the gates of the Raj Nivas.

Chief Minister Rangasamy, Speaker Embalam R Selvam, Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar and DGP Ranveer Singh were among those present. MLAs of the AINRC, BJP, Independent MLAs, and opposition Congress MLA Ramesh Parambath from Mahe were also present, as were Tamil Nadu BJP president L Murugan and Puducherry BJP president V Saminathan. The Cabinet is a mix of experienced and debutants, as well as turncoats and loyalists.

While this is Namassivayam's fourth stint, Lakshminararayanan has become a minister for the second time, and Djeacoumar for the third time. Chandira Priyanga, elected from Nedungadu (SC) constituency in Karaikal region of the Union Territory, and AK Saravanan Kumar, elected from Ossudu (SC), are ministers for the first time.

Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan with Chief Minister N Rangasamy and other ministers who were sworn in on Sunday | EXPRESS

Namassivayam, the former PWD minister in the Congress government led by V Narayanasamy, shifted to the BJP just before the elections. He also switched from Villianur constituency and won the election from Mannadipet constituency. He is likely to be the home minister. Lakshminarayanan, a five-time MLA and former education, revenue and tourism minister (2001 -2005), also switched over from the Congress just before the elections.

Djeacoumar, who was local administration minister in the DMK-TMC government from 1996-1999, and for six months in the Congress government led by P Shanmugham in 2001.

Chandira Priyanga has become the second woman minister in the UT, 41 years after Renuka Appadurai of the INC(I). Chandira Priyanga is the daughter of M Chandirakasu, who was a minister in the earlier AINRC government of Rangasamy in 2011.

AK Saravanan Kumar, who was elected for the first time from Ossudu (SC) constituency, has been a dedicated worker of the BJP. He was the only one to have performed well in the previous Assembly poll in 2016.

KERALA GOVT APPROACHES SC OVER HC VERDICT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

THE state government has filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict which quashed a government order to grant leave with salary to employees and teachers who did not join for duty during the nationwide general strike in January 2019.

The HC had quashed the GO dated January 31, 2019, which allowed government employees and teachers to avail of casual or other eligible leaves for January 8 and 9, 2019, the days on which they were absent as part of the nationwide general strike. The two-day strike was called by a joint committee of various trade unions against the Union government's policies.

In the petition at the SC, the government is learnt to have raised the argument that the GO was a policy decision, despite the HC having rejected it earlier. "Even if it is a policy decision, the court can look into the legality, correctness or arbitrariness of the same, and interfere, by exercising the power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, if such a policy is against the statutory provisions".

It further said the GO was illegal, arbitrary, contrary to the statutory provisions, and therefore, liable to be interfered with by the court under Article 226.

The HC order dated February 2, 2021, directed the heads of departments to scrutinise the attendance registers, and take action, in accordance with law, within two months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of the judgment. The order was passed by the bench comprising Chief Justice S Manikumar and Justice Shaji P Chali based on a public interest litigation filed by Police Fingerprint Bureau former director G Balagopalan.

CRIME PATROL

2 unidentified men rob home-alone woman

Bengaluru: A home-alone woman was threatened by two miscreants, who barged into her house and decamped with valuables worth Rs 10 lakh. The incident took place at Basava Samithi off Thindly Road in Vidyaranyapura on Saturday morning. Police said that 48-year-old wife Jayashree was alone after her husband left for work at around 8.30 am when the men barged in. They gagged her with a cloth and tied her hands and legs. **ENS**

Official held for sexual harassment

Bengaluru: Kamakshipalya police on Friday arrested a 52-year-old superintendent of the beggars rehabilitation centre on charges of sexual harassment. It is alleged that the accused was demanding sexual favours from the victim, who is a D Group employee . A senior police officer said that based on a complaint by the woman, the superintendent Chandrappa was arrested and has been handed to judicial custody. An FIR has been filed against Chandrappa. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

Complaint against cooperative bank, cops to probe scam charges

Bengaluru: Bengaluru police began a probe into a cooperative bank scam, and decided to issue notice to board members of Vashishta Credit Souharda Sahakari Ltd, on charges of cheating investors. A senior police officer said that based on a complaint by Arun B N, a case of criminal conspiracy and cheating was filed against Venkatanarayana KN, Krishna Prasad and other staff of the bank, located in South Bengaluru. Arun alleged that father Nagaraj B T had a opened a fixed deposit of Rs 99 lakh in 2015. A year ago, Arun asked for the interest amount but was told that payment was delayed due to the pandemic. Arun again visited the bank and the staff started avoiding him, while the chairman and board members switched off their mobiles. A year ago, Sri Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank was in the news for alleged irregularities to the tune of Rs 1,400 crore. **ENS**

SHOWING THE WAY

First woman graduate of remote TN village strives to bring a change

OMJASVIN MD @ Chennai

"IN this village, girls aren't allowed to pursue education. But I want to change that and make more people like me graduate," says 32-year-old **Roja**, from Thirukandalam, a remote village in Tiruvallur district. The homemaker spends time every day teaching about 50 underprivileged children from the locality how to use computers, among other things.

She's the first woman graduate from the village, which has a population of about 3,000. "I got married young, but my husband was supportive. So I finished my MA in Tamil and subsequently B.Ed also," she says. Roja initially conducted tuition at home, but eventually, an NGO named Anbagam invited her to use its premises and facilities, including a computer, tablets, and internet connectivity. She now conducts tuition twice a day.

Roja says that before the pandemic, more than 100 students used to come for digital classes daily, but now only about 50 show up. At the Anbagam premises, she uses YouTube to teach various subjects, such as science, math, and language. "I also teach typing in English and Tamil, and teach them to dance by watching YouTube videos," she says, adding that she also shows the children to use Windows, Microsoft Word, Paint, and Notes, besides teaching them how to browse the Internet and print documents, among other things.

She adds that she also shows the children how to surf the internet use a tablet, and how to access educational videos and documents. "The children of this village won't get any exposure to digital learning otherwise as most of them study in panchayat schools. They have to go to the city for such exposure, which would be impossible for them," Roja adds.

Senior advocate Sudha Ramalingam, who runs Anbagam, a home for the elderly and those facing domestic abuse, said tuitions based on the government school syllabus are held regularly, and the students also have book-reading classes.

People willing to donate books, stationery, tablets, computers, or any other study materials for the children may contact 9840431372.

EDITORIAL

The mind is by nature restless. Begin liberating it from its restlessness; give it peace, make it free from distractions, train it to look inward, and make all this a habit

Ramana Maharshi

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TALKING TO THE TALIBAN & SUPREME NATIONAL INTEREST

Terror and talks cannot go together was a maxim written in stone by the Sangh Parivar. That was the guiding principle for the BJP refusing to have any dialogue with not just Pakistan but also internal elements like the fundamentalist Hurriyat Conference and left-wing extremism. Crushing them with the full force of the state was the advocated line of action. The negotiations the Vajpayee government was forced to have with the Taliban following the hijacking of Indian Airlines IC 814 to Kandahar in 1999 were an aberration, as this was meant to resolve a hostage crisis and rescue over 170 passengers. Yet, it was a moment of shame for a government that put a premium on its no-talks-with-terror hardline. Also, the Sangh faulted Vajpayee for keeping the democratic space open for the Hurriyat.

Now, in a significant U-turn, India has opened secret contacts with the Taliban's Afghan leadership. That at present the non-state actor has the upper hand as compared to the Afghanistan government, with the deadline for full withdrawal of US troops from the country on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 fast approaching, is well known. The Taliban already controls over 50 of the 374 districts in the country. So, doing business with the group was an imperative as India is heavily invested in the region and has executed a slew of development works like construction of roads, schools and dams. India has taken up at least 400 projects so far, spending over $1.5 billion and earning a lot of goodwill, making them Pakistan's eyesore. On the flip side, India quietly closed its consulates in Jalalabad and Herath last year ostensibly due to the Covid first wave, but actually since they ended up serving as target practice for terrorists over the years.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar's prescription for lasting peace in Afghanistan—peace within the nation and around it—would necessarily include softening of Indo-Pak edges. Since ideological rigidity must give way to supreme national interest, back-channel talks with Pakistan are on, with the latter said to be now ready for formal dialogue if J&K's statehood is restored, sacrificing Article 370 in the process. One hopes India stays the course of pragmatism for resolving external and internal conflicts.

STRATEGIC MOVES AGAINST CHINA

Strategic affairs analyst Brahma Chellaney pointed at something that has gone unnoticed after the recent G7 Summit. In his briefing, US President Joe Biden referred to a conversation he had with a Chinese leader in the run-up to his election. The latter apparently suggested that if elected, he had better not get the Quad—an informal grouping of India, Japan, Australia and America—working together. This shows China is worried about the Quad as the US views the budding alliance as a springboard for its policy in the Indo-Pacific and India sees in it a strategic counterweight to a belligerent Beijing.

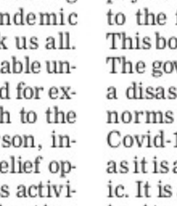
There is, of course, more to the G7 Summit than this passing reference. Biden has tried to rally his allies, despite reservations by some, to challenge the rising Chinese aggression. The G7 made all the right noises—from seeking transparency on the origin of the Wuhan virus and human rights violations in Xinjiang to Taiwan tensions and adopting what Biden called the Build Back Better World (B3W) idea. The last is supposed to be a $40 trillion funding programme to finance infrastructure development in middle and poor income countries as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative that is accused of pushing nations into a debt-trap. Whether the G7 means what it says remains a million dollar question.

The upshot of all this, however, is interesting. There is surely a realisation that China can be countered only through alliances of democratic nations. With economies enmeshed with China, no single country can stand up to its economic bullying. Even among the G7, there is reluctance on the part of countries like Germany to antagonise China, which exported merchandise worth $2.59 trillion and imported $2.05 trillion in 2020. China may mend its ways only if it feels the pinch economically, for which trade and economic ties among democracies must be increased as also intelligence and security cooperation. India faces a peculiar challenge. Can it continue pushing for the Quad while being a part of the BRICS? Strategic autonomy shouldn't result in strategic confusion. A bipartisan consensus on China needs to be achieved internally and a strategic vision articulated.

The government cannot deny that Covid-19 is a disaster. Yet, it has refused to apply the 2015 norms under the NDRF to our frontline soldiers who lost their lives in the pandemic

GOVT NOTIFICATION CAN'T ALTER STATUS OF COVID TRAGEDY

AMIT BANDRE



KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

All who inhabit our planet cannot escape natural disasters. They spell havoc without notice, without warning. We have seen towns and cities flattened, lives lost and habitations washed away. Such is the power of nature.

All we can do is to help those who survive nature's fury—those who have lost their livelihoods, are orphaned and feel that there is nothing left to live for having lost those dear to them.

It is at such times that the state steps in to help stitch lives, to make a citizen feel that he is cared for. Understandably, the Ministry of Home Affairs, on 8 April 2015, delineated the norms of assistance available both under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) in the event of a disaster. These norms were applicable over the period of 2015 to 2020 during which the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc and shook us all. The gratuitous relief available under the said norms allowed for ex-gratia payment of ₹4 lakh to the family of a deceased person, including those involved in relief operations and preparedness activities, subject to verification regarding cause of death. It is logical to assume that such a dispensation is available to all those dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic—doctors, frontline workers and those who by virtue of their vocation were required to put themselves at risk of getting infected while trying to save those infected with the virus. There are others who performed civic functions necessary to keep essential services functional. Having sacrificed their lives to save the lives of others, we owe these brave citizens more than just a debt of gratitude.

It is, however, a matter of great concern that the Government of India has refused to apply the norms under the 2015 order to our frontline 'soldiers' who lost their lives while attempting to save us from the Covid-19 pandemic. On 14 March 2020 the government declared the pandemic as a notified disaster. Within hours, the order was modified. The list of items and norms of assistance appended to the new order did not specify payment of any ex-gratia amount to the families of the deceased. This borders on inhuman conduct. The government's position is that a disaster contemplated by these norms is a one-time event; that Covid-19 is not one such disaster as it is an evolving global pandemic. It is a phenomenon that differs in its intensity and mutates through waves, making it a global public health challenge. In fact, according to the government, successive Finance Commissions have recommended allocations for providing financial relief against 12 identified disasters—cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, floods, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanches, flash floods, frost and cold waves—to which the norms would apply.

The government has decided that the norms applicable to identified disasters are not available to victims of Covid-19, the logic being that this pandemic was not known to man before the virus infected people. However, the nature of new viruses will never be known till they attack the human body. Covid-19 is one such virus. Globally, millions have been victims of this virus. In India alone, if we accept official data, almost 4,00,000 people have fallen prey to this virus. The numbers are without doubt much higher. To put it simply, according to the government, an unidentified disaster is not akin to an identified disaster that requires the surviving families of its victims to be compensated. Such an interpretation defies reason.

> The state is obligated to protect its citizens when such a disaster destroys lives and livelihoods. Any relief granted is not in the nature of an act of mercy. To deprive families of compensation because of the nature of the disaster is crass discrimination

The government, by its own logic, cannot deny that Covid-19 is a disaster. It boasts of a National Plan under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, providing relief to those affected. It claims to have adopted a multipronged tailor-made response taking into account the evolving nature of the virus. At the same time it absolves itself of the obligation to provide the minimum standards of relief required under Section 12 of the 2005 Act. Given this position of the government, it has taken a conscious decision to provide relief depending upon the ever-changing requirements that are needed to ameliorate the effects of this pandemic. Because of the nature of challenges that lie ahead and the enormous burden on the economy along with pressures on the Centre's exchequer, the government is providing support to the public under its various schemes. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, the Comprehensive Personal Accident Cover of ₹50 lakh provided to 22.12 lakh healthcare workers, including community as well as private healthcare workers who may have been exposed to Covid-19 patients, are a few of such schemes that cover the staff of even private hospitals, volunteers, daily wagers, and others.

The defence of the government in not applying the policy decision of 8 April 2015, as also modifying the list of items and norms of assistance, is on the assumption that it has already done enough to take care of the needs of those who have been directly or indirectly impacted by the pandemic.

The state is obligated to protect its citizens when such a disaster destroys lives and livelihoods. Any relief granted is not in the nature of an act of mercy or generosity. It is the state's constitutional duty. To deprive families of compensation granted to others because of the nature of the disaster is crass discrimination. Whether the disaster is a one-time event or a continuing tragedy, the duty to compensate the families of those who have lost their loved ones is no different and cannot depend on whether the disaster is notified by the government or not. A notification cannot alter the nature of the compensation. Government discretion cannot alter the status of the tragedy.

The corporate sector, to boost the business environment, gets massive economic packages and tax benefits. Banks take thousands of crores in haircuts in insolvency proceedings. For that, public monies can be sacrificed. But not for lives lost in a disaster. That is a burden on the exchequer!

(Tweets @KapilSibal)

CHHATTISGARH, A LEGACY IN BRICK TEMPLES

SAURABH SAXENA

Founder of Puratattva, a documentation of heritage sites

Since time immemorial, temples in India have been built with a variety of materials: mud, timber, brick and stone. The choice largely depended upon the availability of raw material. The antiquity of brick goes back to the Indus Valley Civilisation. The earliest remains of brick temples are of the Mauryan period from the sites of Bairat (Rajasthan) and Vidisha (MP). Brick temples belonging to the Gupta period are few: Pawaya (MP), Ahichchhatra (UP), and Bhitargaon (UP), scattered around a large territory. Chhattisgarh presents a distinctive opportunity for the study of brick temples with its numerous extant monuments built between 6th and 12th century CE within a limited geographical area.

The excavated remains at the villages of Garh Dhanora and Bhongapal in Kondagaon district are the earliest brick structures in Chhattisgarh, dated to around 5th-6th century CE. Remains of more than 20 temples have been excavated at Garh Dhanora. Excavations at Bhongapal have revealed remains of an apsidal Buddhist *chaitya*, a temple for Sapta-matrikas and a few temples for Shiva. A variety of architectural styles have been revealed from these remains. Temples were built with plain walls, in *triratha* (three projections) and *pancha-ratha* plans. Many were constructed over a square *garbhagriha* (sanctum), and a few were attached with an *anatarala* (vestibule) and *mandapa* (pillared hall). Bricks were widely used for flooring, walls and superstructure while stone was primarily used for sculptures.

The definitive phase of brick structures started with the group of monuments at Sirpur, sometime during the first quarter of the 7th century CE. Being the capital city of the Sharabhapuriya and Panduvamshi dynasties, Sirpur received considerable royal patronage, which reflects in its rich heritage. The temples were usually built over a stone platform and constructed wholly in brick except for doorways and pillars. The Lakshmana temple is the most impressive monument at the site. It is built over a high stone platform and consists of a *garbhagriha*, an *antarala* and a 16-pillared *mandapa*. It is highly embellished with a variety of floral designs and animal motifs over its walls, and scenes of Krishna-lila and Vishnu *avataras* on its doorway panels. This temple was built by queen Vasata, mother of Mahasivagupta Balarjuna, in commemoration of her husband's death and was dedicated to Vishnu.

The Rama temple in Sirpur represents the earliest experimentation in stellar plans. Its *garbhagriha* is square inside, with an oblique semi-star *pratikarna* (intermediate projections), on the outside. Another important brick temple is the Baleshvara complex. This sprawling complex consists of two central shrines, both with stellar *garbhagrihas*, and three subsidiary structures. Large life-size figures of River Goddesses Ganga and Yamuna adorn the *antarala* doorway. Construction of the complex was started by King Mahasivagupta Balarjuna and extensions made by his two queens, Amaradevi and Ammadevi. A *mathika* (monastery) and a *tapovana* (*yajna*-garden) were also added to the complex. Not just the temples but various Buddhist *viharas* were also constructed in brick in Sirpur.

Kharod, a village in Janjgir-Champa district, has two important brick temples. Andal Deul follows the Rama temple in stellar plan with large figures of River Goddesses adorning its *garbhagriha* entrance. It is dated to mid-7th century CE. The Shabarinarayana temple is also built over a semi stellar plan and has *sapta-ratha* projection with an oblique *pratikarna* and *pratiratha*. This temple is generally placed in the first quarter of 8th century CE.

The Siddheshvara temple at Palari, in Balodabazar district, shows further advancements in stellar plans. The temple has three oblique projections between its central and corner projections. An image of Lakulisa over its lintel suggests affinities to the Lakulisa cult, a popular religious movement in adjacent Odisha during the same period. The temple is dated to 7th century CE.

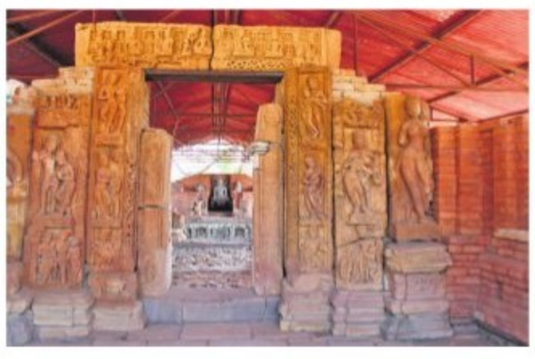
The Rajiv Lochan temple at Rajim is another landmark in the brick temple legacy of Chhattisgarh. This important religious town is situated at the junction of Pairi and Mahanadi rivers. Built around the first quarter of 8th century CE, it is constructed on a *panchayatana* (quincunx) plan. The *shikhara* (tower) of the temple is not in Rekha (curvilinear) style but closely resembles the Dravida style of temple architecture.

The Chitavari temple at Dhobni village in Raipur district is dated to early 8th century CE and shows further advancements over its predecessors. This temple is constructed in stone, except its superstructure (*shikhara*) that is in brick. It is built on a stellar plan with an oblique central projection.

The Keshava Narayana temple at Shivrinarayan in Janjgir-Champa district was carefully excavated in 2011 by the ASI, revealing its elevation and plan that can be dated to 9th century CE. The temple is built on a stellar plan with two oblique projections between its central and corner projections. Turturia has some brick temple ruins and a small brick-built tank dated to 9th century CE. The Kenwatin temple and a few other remains at Pujaripali are dateable to the 11th-12th century CE.

The history of entwined faith and grandeur, with artistic expression spread over 600 glorious years, is reflected in these brick temples of Chhattisgarh. With more than 50 brick structures, Chhattisgarh has a rich heritage, very distinctive and singular in India.

(Puratattva.India@gmail.com)



Lakshmana temple (Left) and Teevaradeva mahavihara (Right) in Sirpur, the erstwhile capital of Sharabhapuriya & Panduvamshi dynasties

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Akin to the Emergency

Modern India is embroiled in a situation akin to that of the infamous Emergency of Mrs Gandhi, though undeclared (*There is freedom, but no mercy*, June 27). Poets, professors, litterateurs and students, whom the government finds 'uncomfortable', are imprisoned while lawbreakers roam around scot-free.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Cong's troubles

The Congress central leadership is yet to show it is capable of reining in rebels (*Congress in disarray in poll-bound states, leadership in a daze*, June 27). The party is even facing problems in Punjab where it is the favourite while the SAD is setting its house in order. The latter has formed an alliance with the BSP and is in talks with the Left parties.

K Ganesh, Coimbatore

On ISRO spy case

This is with reference to *CBI files FIR against 18 former cops in ISRO case* (June 25). It would be important to investigate whether the cops involved in this case were helping a foreign agency stall path-breaking research by arresting ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan.

Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Plight of Malayalees in TN

Addressing the 16th TN Assembly last week, the state's Governor said the new government would ensure native Tamils are given priority in recruitment for government jobs. No doubt, it is a welcome suggestion. But the government should not shut its eyes to the plight of Malayalees, who are natives of TN in Kanniyakumari district and other places. The experience so far is that governments in TN have downplayed the genuine demands of Malayalees. Can we expect a different approach in the matter from the present CM?

P G Moorthy, Thiruvananthapuram

Action must not end here

At last PSU banks got back 40% of dues from economic offenders Mehul Choksi, Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya thanks to the untiring efforts of the Centre. But this must not end here and action should be taken against all bank officials responsible for giving them loans.

M Suresh Kumar, Chennai

Stop tailoring pitches

It was the series victories against Australia and England that gave India the berth in the World Test Championship final. If the victory against the Aussies down under was in a dream-like series, the win against England invited sharp criticism from all over. Trailing 1-0, India beat England in the remaining three Tests in sub-standard pitches that were tailored to assist Indian spinners. It is high time the ICC took measures to guarantee good quality wickets in Test matches.

P R Krishnan, Cheruthuruthy

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
Had a wonderful interaction with veterans of Armed Forces in Leh. Our govt...is committed to welfare of Ex-Servicemen.

Shashi Tharoor @ ShashiTharoor
As of now, exams are scheduled to go ahead tomorrow. If State Govt insists on proceeding, I hope they'll explain to the public why.

Sitaram Yechury @ SitaramYechury
Restore J&K statehood, democratic rights, civil liberties, communications, full access to internet & release all political prisoners.

COVID TRACKER

5,86,403
ACTIVE CASES

1.94%
TOTAL INFECTIONS ARE ACTIVE

1.31%
FATALITY RATE

2.82%
DAILY POSITIVITY RATE

2.91%
WEEKLY POSITIVITY RATE

96.75%
RECOVERY RATE

2,92,51,029
TOTAL RECOVERIES

45
CONSECUTIVE DAYS RECOVERIES OUTNUMBERED DAILY NEW CASES

17,45,809
TESTS ON FRIDAY

40,18,11,892
TOTAL TESTS SO FAR

Source: Union Health Ministry

Attack shows security installations still vulnerable

Defence and security experts say possibility of militants using drone to target govt and military installations is a matter of grave concern

Special security personnel arrive at Jammu Air Force Station on Sunday | PTI

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE drone attack at the Indian Air Force station in Jammu is a serious breach of security as it was able to penetrate deep inside the air base, security and defence experts said.

The IAF was caught off-guard even though the issue of drones carrying and delivering loads have been a matter of concern for some time, they said. Pakistani troops have been using drones to airdrop weapons for militants along the International Border and Line of Control in J&K since last year.

The attack has come as a challenge to the security agencies as it has once again exposed the vulnerability of government installations in J&K.

"The use of drones to drop explosives at Jammu airbase poses a serious challenge to the security forces," former Northern Command chief Lt-Gen (Retd) Deepender Singh Hooda said.

Several officers felt our security was caught off-guard and lacked intelligence about the enemy's capacity. "If the enemy has acquired this capability and is able to penetrate and scoot after delivering the payload, it is dangerous. It also means the enemy can execute such an attack anywhere," said an officer.

Brigadier (Retd) Anil Gupta said the drone attack has made it clear that all the security and government installations in J&K continue to remain vulnerable. "If the drone was having GPS and if it was shot down, then security agencies can know where it came from. However, if it was a self-destructive one, then it would be difficult to find where it came from and if the drone has gone back, then it is a shame as it has infiltrated and exfiltrated both," he said.

Taking a dig at the security apparatus, Gupta said "It was a moonlit night...It is a high security zone and there are radars available. It is the failure of surveillance. Why didn't the BSF men at the border and the security men in the hinterlands detect it? Why didn't the IAF personnel manning the observation posts at IAF station detect and shoot it down?"

According to Gupta, there is a possibility that militants infiltrating from Pakistan might have got these drones and used them on the IAF station. "If it is so, then it is a dangerous trend," he said.

Lt-Gen (Retd) Hooda said defending military installations from drone attacks is very difficult. Countering these tactics will require new counter measures, both in terms of strategy and technical equipment to detect and neutralise the drones.

Former J&K DGP SP Vaid questioned what was the purpose of India-Pakistan ceasefire if such attacks take place.

Never imagined could become President: Kovind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

President Ram Nath Kovind touches the ground to pay obeisance to his home land in Kanpur Dehat district on Sunday | PTI

PRESIDENT Ram Nath Kovind, who is on a visit to his birthplace in Uttar Pradesh, on Sunday said he had never imagined that an ordinary village boy like him would occupy the highest post in the country.

He was addressing a gathering at Paraunkh village in Kanpur Dehat district. "I had never imagined, even in my dreams, that an ordinary village boy like me would have the honour of occupying the highest post in the country. But, our democratic system made this possible. Wherever I have reached today, the credit goes to the soil of this village, this region, and to your love and blessings," the President said.

This is Kovind's first visit to his village after assuming charge as the first citizen of the country. "Though he desired to visit the place earlier, plans could not materialise because of the pandemic," an official statement stated.

Kovind paid tributes to Dr BR Amedkar and other freedom fighters and also visited the Veerangana Jhalkar Bai Inter College and Milan Kendra. He also visited the Pathri Devi temple with his family.

"According to my family's '*sanskaar*' (values), the oldest woman in the village is given the status of mother and the oldest man is given the status of father, irrespective of caste or community. Today, I feel happy that this tradition of giving respect to the elders in our family is still continuing," he said.

Paranukh was not only a village but also his motherland from where he drew inspiration to serve the country, he added. "This inspiration has made me reach from high court to the Supreme Court to the Rajya Sabha. From the Rajya Sabha, I moved to the Raj Bhavan and from there to the Rashtrapati Bhavan," Kovind said.

Get vaccinated, don't pay heed to rumours: Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged the people to shed vaccine hesitancy and take the Covid shots in large numbers. In his monthly radio address, Mann Ki Baat, Modi cited the example of his mother to underscore that the vaccines are safe and there was no reason to fear.

"My mother is close to 100 years of age. She too has taken both doses. At times, some people develop fever on account of this, but it's very minor, just for a few hours. Not getting vaccinated can prove dangerous," he said.

The Prime Minister hailed the feat of over 86 lakh doses being administered in a single day on June 21 at the start of the new phase of inoculation under which all adults are being given free jabs by the Union government. "The battle we the countrymen are fighting against corona is continuing. But in this fight, together we have achieved many an extraordinary milestone! Just a few days ago, our country accomplished an unprecedented feat. On the 21st of June, the next phase of the vaccination campaign commenced and that very day, the country registered a record of administering vaccines to over 86 lakh people, free of cost, that too on a single day! Such a huge number of free vaccinations by the Government of India; that too in a day," the PM added.

If someone says corona is gone, do not be under this mistaken notion, Modi said, adding that the virus is a "master of disguise" which surfaces in myriad new forms, a reference to its mutants.

"To protect ourselves from it, we have two ways. One is adhering to the protocol for corona; wearing a mask, frequently washing hands with soap, maintaining social distancing. The other way is, along with all this, getting vaccinated," he said.

PM Modi urged people not to pay attention to rumours and get vaccinated while encouraging others also to do the same. He underlined that scientists had worked very hard to come up with vaccines and they were absolutely safe. "Those who are spreading rumours on vaccines, let them be. We all will do our work and ensure people around us get vaccinated. The threat of Covid remains and we have to focus on vaccination as well as follow Covid-19 protocols," Modi said.

Twitter interim grievance officer quits weeks after appointment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TWITTER'S interim grievance officer on Dharmendra Chatur has reportedly stepped down leaving the social media giant without an official to handle grievances as mandated by the new IT rules.

The social media giant's website also no longer displays his name as is mandated by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. The company is yet to respond to the development. Twitter now displays the company's name in the place of grievance officer for India with a US address and an email ID.

Twitter has been in the crosshairs with the Centre over the new rules. The government has accused the company of deliberate defiance and failure to comply with the country's new IT rules.

The new guidelines, which came to effect on May 25, mandate social media companies to have a grievance redressal mechanism. "All significant social media companies, with over 50 lakh user base shall appoint a grievance officer to deal with such complaints and share the name and contact details of such officers. The big social media companies are mandated to appoint a chief compliance officer, a Nodal Contact Person and a resident grievance officer. All of them should be resident in India," the text of the rules state.

The government also sent notices to the social media giant asking them to comply with the new guidelines. Twitter on June 5 had said it intended to comply with the new rules. Subsequently, it appointed Chatur as the interim resident grievance officer for India.

'Oppn in Bihar active only on Twitter'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

BJP national president JP Nadda on Sunday took a swipe at the opposition parties in Bihar for going into hiding instead of helping the people during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also accused them of misleading the people over vaccination and other issues of national interests out of narrow political vendetta.

Addressing the Bihar BJP Working Committee meeting virtually, Nadda said that the opposition parties first created confusion on the vaccine developed by Indian scientists and now are hell-bent upon misleading and misguiding the people over vaccination.

Taking potshots on opposition leaders, the BJP chief said even during the second wave of corona, all of them were either quarantined or went into isolation. "Crores of BJP workers are seen working for the people" unlike "many others who remained active only on Twitter", he said in an apparent dig at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

"We live by the motto of service being equivalent to organisation. Our workers helped the needy during the second wave without any trepidation. Many others chose to remain active only on Twitter, quarantining themselves at safe places," said the BJP president.

Talking about the political situation in Bihar, Nadda said that before the NDA government came to power, everyone knows how kidnapping had assumed a form of an industry. "But today, the rule of laws prevails in Bihar and development is taking place all around," he claimed. The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi dealth with the challenges arising out of coronavirus in the country was commendable, he added.

EXPRESS READ

PM inaugurates Zen garden, academy

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated a Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy in Ahmedabad and stressed on how a mini-Japan could be created in his home state. He also thanked leaders of the Hyogo Prefecture and Hyogo International Association for their contribution in the project. Elucidating the similarities between Zen and 'Dhyan', Modi emphasised on inner peace and growth in the two cultures. He also recalled his equation with Japan's leadership and lauded ex-PM Shinzo Abe for giving a new momentum to ties.

Uttarakhand alert over variant

Dehradun: Uttarakhand state health department has written to chief medical officers of all 13 districts to stay alert over the Covid-19 Delta Plus variant which has been classified by the Centre as a 'variant of concern'. A four-point direction issued by Dr Tripti Bahuguna, director-general of health, asked CMOs to identify the people suffering from influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) and to secure simples for genome sequencing to identify the variant.

End vaccine shortage: Rahul

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should end the "shortage" of Covid-19 vaccines, which should be available to every citizen, and not make excuses to distract from this important issue. "The only thing to do is to end the shortage of vaccines. The rest are all excuses for diverting attention," Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi using the hashtag 'Mann ki Baat'. "Just make the vaccine available to all fellow citizens. Then you can also say your 'mann ki baat'," he said.

JOINING HANDS

No justification for terror: India, Greece message

NEW DELHI: IN an apparent reference to Turkey and Pakistan, India and Greece said there can be no justification for terror in any form or manifestation.

"Both countries recognised the threat posed by radicalisation, violent extremism, as well as terrorism, including cross-border terrorism. They emphasised that there can be no justification for these in any form or manifestation," a joint India-Greece statement stated.

The statement was issued after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Greece and met its top leadership including his counterpart Nikos Dendias and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The minister also unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Athens.

As per the joint statement, both sides also shared views on regional and global issues of mutual interest in the context of new geo-political and geo-economic realities, including the Indo-Pacific. Greece also signed the agreement for entering the International Solar Alliance. It was also agreed that the next round of Foreign Office Consultations and Joint Trade Committee would be held soon. *ENS*

LOCKDOWN WOES

Budding athletes make hillocks, farms their new practice grounds in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

WITH the training grounds yet to be unlocked totally, budding athletes have made steep climbs and slopes of hillocks and agricultural farms their practice grounds in Madhya Pradesh.

Aged 21, Vipin Jaiswal, a budding 100 and 200 meters sprinter, has been training since last seven to eight months on the hillock and the connecting tarred road built under the Pradhan Gramin Sadak Yojana in native Dewas district. Chasing a dream of making it to the Indian team for the 2022 Asian Games in China, the gutsy sprinter who finished fourth in the 100 meters dash at a national level tourney in Odisha in 2019, is training alone on the hillock in Dewas district.

Vipin was training under seasoned athletics coach Sunita Rai at Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium, when the first lockdown happened in March 2020, forcing the closure of all sports facilities across the country. "I was left with no option but to return home and train near my village only. For the last seven to eight months, the hillock and connecting road has been my training ground. I know it well that running on tarred road could be disastrous for my knees, but with professional training grounds yet to be unlocked fully and lack of money with me to train under professional coaches at places where the sports facilities have been unlocked, I'm left with no option, but to train on the hillock and connecting road," he said.

Around 325 km away in Sagar district, a real life *Dangal* movie seems to be in the making, as an agricultural labourer trains his three teenage daughters in achieving their dreams of making it big one day in middle and long distance running.

Vinod Rajak has turned a coach to his three daughters Kajal (15), Astha (17) and Pooja (19). The sisters are training hard in their farm and on the sides of railway tracks in Karonda village near Bina town. "I was planning to get them enrolled at sports facilities with whatever money I've at my disposal, but COVID lock-down ruined all our plans," said Rajak.

Children undergoing training in a Madhya Pradesh village | EXPRESS

ROW

Netaji's cap was given to Victoria Memorial for an exhibition, said Union Culture Minister Prahlad Patel after the freedom fighter's kin claimed the artefact was 'transferred to another place it was not meant to be at'

`5cr FAKE NOTES SEIZED IN BALAGHAT

Ahmedabad	39	28	Mumbai	34	28
Bhopal	35	24	Panaji	31	24
Jaipur	39	29	Patna	33	23
Amritsar	38	28	Lucknow	37	28
Chennai	33	28	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	34	28	Imphal	30	22
Srinagar	30	15	Chandigarh	38	27

Maratha Kranti Sangharsh Morcha takes out a bike rally demanding reservation for Marathas in Mumbai on Sunday | PTI

Aghadi, BJP battle over OBC quota in civic bodies

Fadnavis assures return of reservation; MVA allies blame him for mess

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

THE demand for restoration of OBC quota in local civic bodies has triggered a political slugfest between the ruling and Oppositions parties in Maharashtra.

Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that if BJP is voted to power, then he would bring back the OBC reservationsin the local bodies and its polls within four months. "If I fail to give the OBC reservations, then, I will take permanent political *sanyas* (renunciation). The Maha Vikas Aghadi is responsible for this reservation mess in Maharashtra. The Uddhav Thackeray government is neither able to give reservation to the Maratha community nor the OBCs."

NCP state president Jayant Patil held Fadnavis and the BJP responsible for cancellations of Maratha and OBC reservations. "While approving these decisions, Fadnavis did not follow the proper legal procedure and deliberately left the loopholes that were highlighted in the Supreme Court orders."

SC firm on its order

The Supreme Court rejected the state government's review petition concerning reservation to the OBCs. It has ruled that the reservation in favour of the OBC in local bodies should not result in exceeding the 50% cap

He said that Fadnavis should not daydream of coming back to power in Maharashtra. "It is better for the Leader of Opposition to share the formula or the trick that he wants to use to bring back the OBC reservation. Fadnavis should not work only for power, but he should do it without grabbing power also."

Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant was equally scathing. "Fadnavis made a public statement that when the BJP is voted in 2014, in the first cabinet meeting only the Dhangar community will get reservations. He also promised the same to Maratha and other communities. What happened? No one got the reservations but Fadnavis enjoyed power for five years. This time too, he is lying to grab power, but the people are wise enough to understand his guile."

Sawant said Fadnavis had issued the ordinance for OBC reservations on July 31, 2019 in local body elections where it was mentioned that as per the populations of the OBC, reservations will be allocated to them.

"When this decision was challenged in Supreme Court and the court asked the data of OBC populations, the government failed to submit it. Because there was no survey done BJP keeps mum over it," Sawant alleged.

NCP minister, Chhagan Bhujbal said that if Fadnavis promises to usher in the OBC reservation again in local bodies, then he is ready to meet any central government minister with the former Maharashtra chief minister.

Aadhaar more than 12 digits for ex-Reds

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

FOR surrendered CPI-Maoist cadres, Aadhaar is just not merely 12 digits. It means a new life. The document establishes their identity as bonafide citizens — something which was not possible during their days as outlaws.

Under the special initiative Lon Varratu-2, the former rebels are enrolled for Aadhaar by the Dantewada police and district administration, to facilitate them avail the benefits of ration card, bank account, smart health card, voter identity card among others. It does not end there. They are now being administered Covid vaccines, thanks to their Aadhaar.

In Dantewada district, 375 Maoists had surrendered after seeing the success of 'Lon Varratu' (in local tribal Gondi dialect meaning return to your home/village) campaign which was launched a year ago. There are 454 surrendered rebels listed in the district since 2019 to be covered under the ongoing Lon Varratu-2.

"It gives a feel of being a part of the mainstream and living a dignified life. We are now entitled to receive government benefits too," said Sukhnath Potam, a resident of Narayanpur and former Maoist who got his first vaccine dose.

"Now, my family has MNREGS job card, thanks to Aadhaar," said Mata Kawasi from Bijapur.

The project apparently works on the dictum that with the Aadhaar card issued by UIDAI, no one should be deprived of the benefits associated with it.

Former Maoist cadres are handed Aadhaar at an event | EXPRESS

"Based in the conflict zone, their situation is different from among the millions of Indians who initially didn't have any reliable or recognised identity documentation. Aadhaar is the first form of legitimate identity which the surrendered rebels will now acquire under Lon Varratu-2," said Abhishek Pallava, Dantewada district police chief.

A few months ago, Dantewada police carried out a feedback survey from the surrendered Maoists in the villages. "We found not even 25 of the 454 rebels who surrendered since 2019 had Aadhaar. They remain deprived of various beneficial services and welfare programmes. So we launched Lon Varratu-2 from May 31," the SP added.

The ongoing initiative so far has facilitated 139 Aadhaar cards, 100 ration cards, 135 voter identity cards and 129 bank accounts for the surrendered Maoists. The Bastar police hope such initiatives will encourage other Maoists to surrender and help them return to the mainstream.

ARUNACHAL

Judge's order in rape case draws flak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

A court in Arunachal has drawn flak over the manner in which it handled a case involving a minor rape survivor from Nepal.

Not only it ordered the girl to be handed over to her local guardian, who incidentally is the sister-in-law of the alleged rapist, it also allegedly did not allow a member of the local Child Care Institute (CCI) to accompany her while recording her statement.

The girl worked as a domestic help at the house of the accused, Aka Kalung. She had arrived from Nepal when she was very young and ever since then, she had been staying at the house of the accused, the police said. Kalung, who is now out on bail, had allegedly raped the girl multiple times.

The Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights decided to send one of its members to Roing for an assessment of how the case was handled. It has already taken up the case with the NCPCR. Given that the girl is from another country, the police had suggested the APSCPCR to take up the case at the embassy level.

BSP to contest alone in UP and Uttarakhand elections: Mayawati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

RULING out the possibility of alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, Bahujan Samaj Party supremo **Mayawati** announced her party would go solo in the 2022 polls in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Amid reports about the possibility of BSP aligning with the AIMIM in UP just like it did in Bihar, Mayawati tweeted about her decision to contest alone in the two states.

In last year's Bihar polls, the BSP had contested in alliance with AIMIM and Upendra Kushwaha's RLSP. While the AIMIM won five seats (in Muslim dominated pockets Seemanchal region), the BSP's lone seat came from Chainpur in Kaimur district. However, BSP MLA Mohd Jama Khan ditched the party after the results and joined the ruling JD(U) and is now a minister in the Bihar government.

Through her tweets on Sunday, Mayawati made it clear that her party has only announced an alliance in Punjab with the Shiromani Akali Dal. In Punjab, the SAD will contest 97 seats, while BSP will field candidates on 20 seats.

Mayawati's tweets came amid the district panchayat chairperson polls, where her party's inability to field candidate in some districts, including Mau and Ghaziabad (despite having won more district panchayat members seats than BJP and SP) indirectly helped the BJP win unopposed.

This has fuelled rumours about possibility of BSP and BJP coming close together in the event of a hung Assembly.

In the 2017 UP polls, the BSP which had contested alone, finished a distant third behind the BJP and SP-Cong alliance, with just 19 seats and 22.23% vote share, which was 61 seats less and 3.68% lesser vote share than its 2012 polls tally.

EXPRESS READ

Man held for forcible conversion in UP

Lucknow: A man from a village in UP's Fatehpur district was arrested on Sunday for allegedly exerting pressure on his wife and children to change their religion and embrace Islam like him, said police. Fatehpur's Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar identified the arrested accused as Vijay Sonkar from Purmai village.

Clear dues or face stir: Farmers' outfit to Yogi

Lucknow: A farmers' outfit in Uttar Pradesh has warned of a protest if dues of sugarcane farmers are not paid on time. In a letter to CM Yogi Adityanath, Rashtriya Kisan Majdoor Sangathan convenor V M Singh said PM Modi in 2017 had said the payment to the sugarcane farmers will be done in 14 days, or interest will be given. The promise is unfulfilled, he said.

Rahul extends support to agitating farmers

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi extended his support to the farmers' protest which has been going on for over 200 days and said even as "massive crisis builds, government policies fail to reflect their concerns". He also shared a video of farmers producing coffee in Wayanad in Kerala which claimed they are in deep distress.

Bengal BJP workers can't 'like' what they like

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

IF you are a member of the West Bengal BJP and have contacts with fellow politicians across party lines, your loyalty henceforth will be suspect.

For, the party's disciplinary action committee has just decreed that no BJP worker can have a party foe in his or her Facebook friends list. Also, 'liking' anti-BJP social media post is a strict no-no. A show-cause notice will be slapped if you dare to violate the fiat.

The bizarre diktat comes as the party is at its wit's end, trying to stem indiscipline in its ranks, with a section of leaders pouring out their anguish at the BJP's poor performance in the recent Assembly elections on social media.

"Not just district functionaries, some state-level leaders, too, expressed displeasure with the party's central leadership and held it responsible for the electoral loss through their social media accounts, especially Facebook," said a senior BJP leader in Kolkata.

The disciplinary action committee's latest fiat left party workers astounded. "The diktat asking functionaries to remove anti-BJP people from their friends' list is astounding. We have many friends whose political affiliation is different," said an unhappy BJP leader. "The committee warned that other than serving show-cause notice, strict action could be taken against those who defy discipline, he shared.

A three-member disciplinary action committee was set up on June 8 to control growing discontent within the party. It is headed by Lok Sabha member Subhas Sarkar.

ON GUARD

Security personnel guard NHRC members who are probing the vandalisation of houses belonging to BJP supporters in Birbhum district on Sunday. The BJP accuses the ruling TMC or orchestrating the attacks | PTI

Voice against hunting leads to social boycott

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

A khap panchayat has imposed boycott on three families of a village in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district because they had raised their voice against wildlife hunting. As some people did not like their stand, a Khap Panchayat was convened and the panchayat issued the diktat for these families nearly three weeks ago. As a result of the Khap's decision at Bala village, the three families are virtually imprisoned in their homes since June 5. Nobody in the village is providing them with even basic rations. One of the victims is from the Vishnoi community who are known for their devotion to the environment and wildlife especially deer.

As farmers have put barbed wires to protect crops, many deer get injured and even get killed. Sometimes dogs and hunters also chase them.

Since such incidents were increasing, a complaint was filed with the Forest Department. In this case, the forest department made Suresh a government witness. This reportedly angered the villagers and led to the khap's decision. If anyone protested against the decision, the Khap also threatened action against them. On the basis of a complaint filed by a victim, the police have finally registered a case.

NCP fears summons a plot to trap Deshmukh

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

WITH the ED asking former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh to appear before it on Tuesday for questioning in connection with the ₹100-crore bribery allegation, NCP leaders fear that this could be a "ploy" by the BJP to arrest the senior leader.

This is the second time that the ED has summoned Deshmukh in the last 10 days in the money laundering case related to an alleged multi-crore bribery-cum-extortion racket, that led to his resignation in April.

Earlier Deshmukh had sought more time to appear before the central agency.

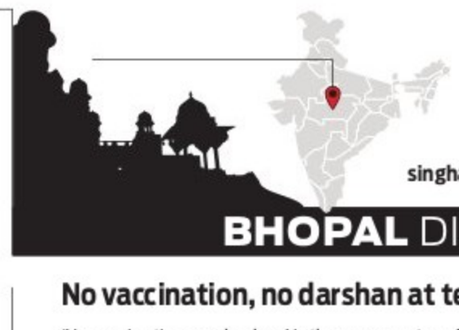
Maharashtra NCP leaders alleged that the ED's summons clearly showed the BJP was "misusing" central probe agencies to target opposition leaders. "BJP wants to set the wrong precedent by arresting the former home minister on false charges. This is nothing but the ploy to topple the Uddhav Thackeray government," said a senior NCP minister.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said the ED notices are not new for the party. "We will continue to fight the legal battle. We are with Anil Deshmukh and expose the vendetta politics of the BJP."

But, BJP state president Chandrakant Patil said the Aghadi leaders should not "malign" the image of central probe agencies which are "transparently" probing the case. "If Deshmukh has not done anything wrong, then he and his party leaders should not get afraid," the BJP leader asserted.

Ex-Team India centre forward to don coach's mantle

The MP sports department is contemplating appointing former Indian Hockey Team member Shivendra Singh as the new coach of the Gwalior-based MP Women Hockey Academy. He was a centre forward in the India team. The state sports department has recently appointed another former Team India striker Sameer Dad as the head coach of the MP State Men Hockey Academy. While confirming that the department higher ups will soon talk to Shivendra Singh for the assignment, official sources said that the twin moves are aimed at bringing the concept of 'vocal for local' in sports training as both Dad and Singh hail from MP. Singh was part of the Indian team that won the Asia Cup in 2007 and the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in 2010.



ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

BHOPAL DIARY

No vaccination, no darshan at temples

'No vaccination, no darshan' is the new mantra of three prominent temples in Madhya Pradesh. The include Omkareshwar Temple in Khandwa district, Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain (both housing Jyotirlinga) and Khajrana Ganesh Temple in Indore. While the two temples in Indore and Khandwa have already been unlocked and production of vaccination certificate (at least single dose) made mandatory at the temple entry, the famous Mahakaleswar Temple in Ujjain will be unlocked for devotees from Monday with the condition that every devotee either produces vaccination certificate or an RTPCR negative report issued 48 hours before entering the temple premises. The stand has drawn a positive response from most people.

Perks of being minister's nephew

Husbands of women lawmakers writing Vidhayak Pati or Sansad Pati aren't new. But the nephew of a minister of state in MP has started a new trend of 'Bhatije, Rajya Mantri'. A vaccination event in Bhind district during the statewide June 21 Vaccination Mega Campaign hit headlines not for jabs but due to the banner there. Jyotiraditya Scindia's loyalist minister of state OPS Bhadauria graced the event where the banner not only contained the minister's name but also introduced his guest and nephew Bharat Singh Bhadauria as 'Bhatije, Rajya Mantri' (nephew minister). As per informed sources, this introduction of Bharat Singh as 'minister's nephew' on the banner was done on his insistence only.

MLA's tweet sparks row

A tweet by BJP MLA Ajay Vishnoi, criticising former Union minister Maneka Gandhi for her alleged insulting phone call to a veterinarian, has triggered controversy. Vishnoi tweeted on Saturday, "The words used by Maneka Gandhi to talk to veterinary doctor Vikas Sharma doesn't prove that the veterinary college in Jabalpur is bad, but it certainly proves that she is atrocious. I'm ashamed that she is my party's MP (not leader)." Sharma is an alumnus of Veterinary Science University in Jabalpur. The tweet, however, didn't go down well with the leadership. BJP state in-charge Muralidhar Rao said such language shouldn't be used against women.

Classified UK defence ministry papers found at bus stop: Report

One set discusses likely Russian reaction to HMS Defender's passage via Ukrainian waters off Crimea coast on Wednesday; bundle also includes updates on arms exports campaigns

LONDON

CLASSIFIED documents from the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) containing secret information about a warship and the British military was discovered at a bus stop in south-eastern England, according to a media report on Sunday.

The MoD said an employee reported the loss of the documents last week, which were discovered by a member of the public in a soggy heap behind a bus stop in Kent early on Tuesday morning, the BBC report said.

One set of documents reportedly discusses the likely Russian reaction to HMS Defender's passage through Ukrainian waters off the Crimea coast on Wednesday and another lays out plans for a possible UK military presence in Afghanistan after the US-led NATO operation there ends this year. "It would be inappropriate to comment further," an MoD spokesperson said, as it was confirmed an investigation has been launched into the incident.

A member of the public, who wishes to remain anonymous, found the 50-odd pages of documents and contacted the BBC when he realised the sensitive nature of the contents.

The BBC believes the documents, which include emails and PowerPoint presentations, originated in the office of a senior official at the MoD. The documents relating to the Royal Navy's Type 45 destroyer, HMS Defender, show that a mission described by the MoD as an "innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters", with guns covered and the ship's helicopter stowed in its hangar, was conducted in the expectation that Russia might respond aggressively.

On Wednesday, more than 20 Russian aircraft and two coastguard ships shadowed the warship as it sailed about 19-km off Crimea's coast. Moscow's defence ministry said a patrol ship fired warning shots and a jet dropped bombs in the destroyer's path but the UK government rejected this account. The mission, dubbed "Op Ditroite", was the subject of high-level discussions as late as Monday, the documents show, with officials speculating about Russia's reaction if HMS Defender sailed close to Crimea.

The bundle of documents also includes updates on arms exports campaigns, including sensitive observations about areas where Britain might find itself competing with European allies. And there are briefing notes for last Monday's session of the UK-US Defence Dialogue, including observations on US President Joe Biden's first months in office. *PTI*

'EYES ONLY'

One document, addressed to UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace's private secretary, and marked "Secret UK Eyes Only", outlines highly sensitive recommendations for the UK's military footprint in Afghanistan, following the end of Operation Resolute Support, the NATO operation currently winding down in the wake of US President Joe Biden's decision earlier this year to withdraw American forces.

It discusses an American request for British aid in several areas, and addresses the question of whether any British special forces will remain in Afghanistan once the withdrawal is complete.

Due to the sensitivity of the document, the BBC said it has decided not to report details that could endanger the security of British and other personnel in Afghanistan.

WHO FOUND IT

A civilian found the 50-odd pages of documents lying in a soggy heap behind a bus stop in Kent and contacted the BBC upon realising the sensitive nature of its contents.

UK to investigate leaked footage of minister's affair that ended career

LONDON

THE UK government said on Sunday that it will launch an investigation into how footage from inside a departmental office was leaked and ended in **Matt Hancock** resigning as Health Secretary to make way for Sajid Javid.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will look into how the former health secretary came to be videoed kissing one of his aides, Gina Coladangelo, who has also resigned from her DHSC role of non-executive director in the wake of the scandal.

There had been growing calls for a probe after questions were raised about the reasons behind the presence of a camera inside a smoke alarm in Hancock's former office and security concerns over footage from it being accessed.

"The Department of Health will be investigating quite rightly to understand how this was able to happen," UK Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis told the BBC. "We have got to be concerned about the fact that someone was able to secure a recording from inside a government building' We have to understand how that happened and how we deal with that," he said.

The Sun newspaper, which had published images of the illicit kiss that broke the Covid lockdown rules in place at the time in early May, said the images came from "a concerned Whitehall whistleblower." Hancock issued an apology for breaking the rules on social distancing with someone outside his household bubble on Friday, which was accepted by Prime Minister Boris Johnson who backed him to stay on as a Cabinet minister.

But his position as Health Secretary soon became untenable as not only the Opposition but even his own Conservative Party colleagues began speaking out against his actions, saying they undermined public trust in the lockdown rules.

"Those of us who make these rules have got to stick by them," Hancock said in his resignation on Saturday.

According to UK media, he had ended his 15-year marriage to wife Martha on Thursday after he knew his affair with his close friend and aide was to hit the headlines on Friday. PTI

Lebanese protesters clash with security forces

BEIRUT

LEBANESE protesters tried to storm central bank offices in two major cities on Saturday, state media reported, after the national currency plunged to a new record low on the black market. The pound has been pegged to the dollar at 1,507 since 1997, but the country's worst economic crisis in decades has seen its unofficial value plummet. On Saturday, money changers said the currency was trading at 17,300-17,500 to the greenback on the black market, while some social media users said it had fallen as low as 18,000.

Dozens of angry Lebanese took to the streets of the northern city of Tripoli to denounce the depreciation and "difficult living conditions", the National News Agency reported. Some protesters managed to break through the gates of a branch of the central bank and enter the courtyard, the NNA said, but the army prevented them from reaching the building. Demonstrators also set fire to the entrance of a government office, an AFP correspondent said. Others were seen trying to force their way into the homes of two lawmakers but were stopped by security forces. The NNA said gunshots were heard outside the house of lawmaker Mohammed Kabbara and the army intervened to disperse protesters. In the southern city of Sidon, protesters tried to storm another branch of the central bank only to be pushed back by security forces, the NNA reported. Scattered protests also took place in the capital Beirut, where a small number of protesters took to the streets and burned tyres. AFP

A demonstrator burns tyres to block the Martyrs' Square in Beirut | AFP

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Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020
Regional Office : HDFC House, No.51, Kasturaba Road, Bangalore - 560001. **Ph :** 080 41183000
Fax: 080 22275754, **E-mail :** customercare.bang@hdfc.com, **Website:** www.hdfc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused/are getting the said Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notice are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their name(s), together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Attention of the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	(Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Borrowers: (1) Mr.Russell Able Collaco,** Flat No 31, Building No 930 Way No 2013, Plot No 101, Greater Muttarah, Muscat **(2) Mr.Russell Able Collaco**, New No 44, Old No 33, Shakthivel Constructions, Errikari Street, Nessapakam, K K Nagar, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600078 **(3) Mr.Russell Able Collaco,** Khimji Ramdas, Designation: Executive, Department: Sales-Luxury And LIF, Sultanate Of Oman, Muscat, PO Box No 19, Pc 113, Muscat, Oman **(4) Mr. Russell Able Collaco,** Flat-A23, 2nd Floor, Whistling Woods–LOS Survey No. 70/2, Harohalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru- 560063.	**Loan A/c No: 649098825 Rs.53,11,198/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Eleven Thousand One Hundred Ninety Eight Only) as on 30.04.2021**	**03.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.01.2021**	**Schedule-A:** All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land property bearing **Sy.No.70/2, Khata No.24/70/2/22** (converted vide official Memorandum No.ALN(NAY)/SR/39/2013-14, dated 06.11.2013, measuring 38 guntas situated at Harohalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: **East by:** Remaining portion of same Sy.No.70/20 **West by:** Land belongs to Sri N.R.Narasimhamurthy, **North by:** Road, **South by :** Land belongs to Sri Subbarayappa. **Schedule-B :** **487. 36 Square Feet** undivided share, right, title and interest and ownership of land in Schedule A Property. **Schedule-C :** All the piece and parcel of Residential apartment bearing **Flat bearing No.A-23** in the **second floor having (2.5 BHK) Two and Half bed rooms,** having super built up area of 1219 Sq Ft, constructed in the apartment building known as **"WHISTLING WOODS"** walls to be constructed with cement and bricks doors to be made of hone wood, steel windows, with vitrified tiles flooring and to be provided with all civic amenities and together with one covered car parking area and with proportionate share in the common area, entrances, stair cases, passages, corridors, lifts etc., provided in the schedule A property and bounded **East by :** Flat No.B-26, **West by :** Wide Corridor, **North by :** Open to Sky and Lift, **South by :** Open to Sky.
2	**Borrowers: (1) Mrs. Rajshree Kunwar,** Villa No 73, Concord Sylvan View, Electronic City 2, Near Gold Coin Club, Bengaluru-560100 **(2) Mrs. Rajshree Kunwar,** # 502/396, Mumfordganj, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh 211002 **(3) Mrs. Rajshree Kunwar,** Diacure Diagnositcs & Research Centre Private Limited, **Designation:** Director, No 1213, 9th Cross, Above More Departmental Store, Ananth Nagar Phase 2, Bangalore-Electronic City, Bengaluru- 560100 **(4) Mrs. Rajshree Kunwar** Flat-337, 3rd Floor, KB Residency S No 57, 58, 58/1, Kyalsanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru- 560105 **Co-Borrower-1 : (1) Mr. Anshu Pal Singh,** Villa No 73, Concord Sylvan View, Electronic City 2, Near Gold Coin Club, Bengaluru-560100 **(2) Mr. Anshu Pal Singh,** # 502/396, Mumfordganj, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211002 **(3) Mr. Anshu Pal Singh,** Diacure Diagnositcs & Research Centre Private Limited, **Designation:** Director, No 1213, 9th Cross, Above More Departmental Store, Ananth Nagar Phase-2, Bangalore-Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100 **(4) Mr. Anshu Pal Singh,** Flat-337, 3rd Floor, KB Residency, S No 57,58,58/1, Kyalsanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru-560105, **Co-Borrower-2: (1) M/s. Diacure Diagnostics and Research Centre Private Limited,** No.3239,1st Floor, 12th Main, H A L 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru- 560038 **(2) M/s. Diacure Diagnostics and Research Centre Private Limited,** No 1213, 9th Cross, Above More Departmental Store, Ananth Nagar Phase 2, Bangalore-Electronic City, Bengaluru-560100 **(3) M/s. Diacure Diagnostics and Research Centre Private Limited,** Flat-337, 3rd Floor, KB Residency S No 57,58,58/1, Kyalsanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Bengaluru-560105.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 635652141 Rs.32,64,510/- (2) 637510236 Rs. 1,40,305/- Total Rs. 34,04,815/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 31.05.2021**	**03.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.10.2020**	**Schedule - A :** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property converted lands bearing **Sy.No.57** measuring 25 guntas, duly converted by the order of the deputy commissioner vide his order No. ALN/SR/(A)656/2004-2005 dated 14.03.2005 the land bearing Sy.No. 58 measuring 21 guntas duly converted by the order of the deputy commissioner vide his order No. ALN/SR/(A)655/2004-2005 dated 14.03.2005 and the land bearing Sy. No. 58/1measuring 20 guntas duly converted by the order of the deputy commissioner vide his order No.ALN/AJ/SR 59/2011-2012dated 27.08.2011totally measuring 1 acre 26 guntas or 6677.257 Sq. mtrs situated at Kyalasanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, having Katha Nos 841/73/57/58/58/1 and commonly bounded on : **East by :** Land in Sy.No. 57 and 58, **West by :** Land in Sy.No. 57 and 58, **North by :** Road, **South by :** Land in Sy.No.58. **Schedule - B:** An Undivided **567.0670** share in the land comprised in the schedule A Property. **Schedule – C :** **Municipal Khata No. 1055/73/156.** A **Three Bed Room** apartment unit bearing **No.337** on the **Third Floor** of the Apartment building known as **"K B RESIDENCY"** constructed on the land mentioned in the A Schedule herein, duly approved by BMRDA vide its sanction letter vide No. AYP/CC/840-2012-2013 dated 21.05.2013 with super built up area of **1265 Sq Ft** Consisting of R.C.C. Roof, vitrified tile flooring, Chap Wood doors and windows with all amenities and one covered parking in the Stilt Flooring **East by :** Corridor, **West by :** Open Space, **North by :** Flat No. TF.338, **South by :** Flat No. TF.336.
3	**Borrowers: (1) Mr. R Manjunatha,** No 16, K No 224-3, Gundappa Layout, 1st Cross, Akshaya Nagar, Ramamurty Nagar, Bengaluru 560016 **(2) Mr. R Manjunatha,** Sri Vinayaka Constructions **Designation:** Proprietor, No 189, KSFC Layout, Opp Oil Mill Road Park, Kacharakanahalli, Bengaluru-560084 **(3) Mr. R Manjunatha** Plot Western Portion 14, House 75/3, Khatta 128/6, Colony K R Puram Village, Horamavu, Agara Village, Bengaluru 560037 **Co-Borrower-1 : (1) Mrs. Savitha,** No 16, K No 224-3, Gundappa Layout, 1st Cross, Akshaya Nagar, Ramamurty Nagar, Bengaluru -560016 **(2) Mrs. Savitha,** #163, Jansintha Nilaya, Anandapura, T C Palya, Devasandra, Bengaluru 560036 **(3) Mrs. Savitha,** Sri Vinayaka Interior Decorators, **Designation:** Proprietor, No 189, St Thomas Town Post, Opp Samudaya Bhavan, Opp Oil Mill Road Park, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru -560084 **(4) Mrs. Savitha,** Plot Western Portion 14, House 75/3, Khatta 128/6, Colony K R Puram Village, Horamavu, Agara Village, Bengaluru 560037 **Co-Borrower-2: (1) M/s Sri Vinayaka Interior Decorators,** No 189, St Thomas Town Post, Opp Samudaya Bhavan, Opp Oil Mill Road Park, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560084 **(2) M/s Sri Vinayaka Interior Decorators,** Plot Western Portion 14, House 75/3, Khatta 128/6, Colony K R Puram Village, Horamavu, Agara Village, Bengaluru-560037.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 647108751 Rs.40,00,847/- (2) 648249888 Rs. 2,12,054/- Total Rs. 42,12,901/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred One Only) as on 31.05.2021**	**07.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 28.02.2021**	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.14,** old Katha No.207, New Katha No. 128/6, Assessment No.75/3, property No.75/3, previously situated at Horamavu Agara Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Now assigned as BBMP new PID No. 025-W0998-11, Katha No. 14/128/6, Horamavu Agara Bangalore., Now comes under BBMP Ward No.25, Measuring East to West : 40'(Forty) Feet and North to South : 50'(Fifty) Feet, totally measuring 2000 Square Feet, and bounded on: **East :**Site No.13, **West :** Site No.15, **North :** Private Property, **South:** Road. And any construction thereon.
4	**Borrowers: (1) Mr. Chinna Chennaiah,** P-22/9 Ganganagar DGQA, Residence Complex, Ganganagar-560032 **(2) Mr. Chinna Chennaiah** Controllerate Of Quality Assurance (Electronics) **Designation:** MCM, **Department:** Ministry of Defence Min of Defence (DGQA) J.C Nagar, Bengaluru-560006 **(3) Mr. Chinna Chennaiah,** Plot-275, CQAL Nandi Layout, Thimasandra Village, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru-561201	**Loan A/c No: 651299876 Rs.7,45,055/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Fifty Five Only) as on 30.04.2021**	**09.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 28.02.2021**	**Schedule -A:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing the converted land bearing **Sy.No. 116/3** (conversion order No. ALN(DK) SR/34/2017-18 dated :26.10.2017) 119/3, 121/2, 120/2B, 120/2A, 120/3, 119/1, 119/2, 120, 120/1, 117/5, 117/6, 116/2, 117/2A2 situated at Thimmasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, converted for Residential purpose and the layout plan approved by BIAAPA i.e. Bangalore International Airport Area Planing Authority and released the Sites to sell vide Endorsement No.BIAAPA/TP/LAO/12/2016-17/203, Dated : 07.05.2018, in all measuring 23 acres 8 ½ guntas. **Schedule-B:** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being a residential Vacant **Site No.275,** PID No.150300301000120296, Khatha No.682/116/3/275 this site formed in Sy.No.116/3, (Conversion order No.ALN(DK)SR/34/2017-18, Dated 26.10.2017)(Formed in various Survey numbers mentioned in the Schedule A property herein) situated at Thimmasandra Village, Rajaghatta Village, panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The layout known as **"CQAL NANDI LAYOUT"** BIAAPA approved layout vide their endorsement No. BIAAPA/TA/LAO/12/2016-17/203, Dated 07.05.2018. Measuring East to West 12.19 Metres and North to South 9.14 Meters. In all measuring 111.42 Sq Meters and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by :** Site No.260, **North by :** Site No.274, **South by :** Site No.276. And Any construction thereon.
5	**Borrowers: (1) Mr. Kishore K,** 502, 5th Floor, Samenthana Lake Front, B Block, Bengaluru-560066 **(2) Mr. Kishore K,** Hewlett Packard Enterprise India Private Limited **Designation:** Technical Solution C **Department:** INT, **Employee No.:** 21719696 Kalyani Tech Park, Ebony Block, Magnolia Buildind Brooke, Field Whitefield, Bengaluru-560037 **(3) Mr. Kishore K,** Flat-B-402-Block-B, 4th Floor, Samethana Apartment, Samethanahalli, Annugundanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru-560067 **Co-Borrowers : (1) Mrs. K Swapna**, 502, 5th Floor, Samenthana Lake Front B Block, Bengaluru-560066 **(2) Mrs. K Swapna,** Bangalore International Academy, Designation: Mont Teacher, Department: Teaching, No.265/3 Whitefield Road, Samethanahalli, IOCL Road, Bengaluru-560067 **(3) Mrs. K Swapna,** Flat-B-402-Block-B, 4th Floor, Samethana Apartment, Samethanahalli, Annugundanahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru- 560067	**Loan A/c No: (1) 635564824 Rs.16,36,620/- (2) 635565557 Rs.17,00,034/- (3) 642619278 Rs. 1,06,460/- Total Rs.34,43,114/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Fourteen Only) as on 31.05.2021**	**10.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.10.2020**	All that piece and parcel of residential apartment bearing **No B0402** (Khatha PID No.150300402500520923) on the **4th Floor of 'Block B',** in the building known as **"SAMETHANA LAKEFRONT",** measuring 74.90 Sq.mtrs., (806 Sq.ft.) of super built up area including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use, with right to use Open Car Parking Space No.**B0402** in the Ground Level together with 26.57 Sq.Mtrs. (286 sq.ft.) undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land on which this building is constructed situated at property bearing Sy.Nos.66/2 and 66/3 at Samethanahalli Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk.
6	**Borrowers: (1) Mr. M Amirtharaj,** A P M Construction, Designation: Proprietor, No 20/1, 2nd Cross, Hanumanthappa Layout, Sulthanpalya, R T Nagar H O, Near Pandt Quarter 8, Bengaluru-560032, **Co-Borrowers : (1) Mrs. P Beulah,** No 20/1, 2nd Cross, Hanumanthappa Layout, Sulthanpalya, R T Nagar H O, Near Pandt Quarter 8, Bengaluru 560032 **(2) Mrs. P Beulah,** St. John High School, **Designation:** Senior School **Department:** Language Teacher, **Employee No.:** 512 No: 132, St. John's Church Road, Cleveland Town, Bengaluru- 560005.	**Loan A/c No: 627319809 Rs.53,00,933/- (Rupees Fifty Three Lakhs Nine Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on 31.05.2021**	**10.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 28.02.2021**	All that piece and parcel of western portion of the immovable residential property bearing **No.20/1 (Old No. 31 & 32)** portion of Sy.No.52/3, situated at Gramatana of Sulthanpalya, Matadahalli Dakle, presently coming under the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Maahanagara Palike, known as 2nd 'E' Cross, Sulthanpalya, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore. measuring East to West : 30Ft., and North to South : 50 ft., totally measuring 1500 Sq.ft., along with 693 Sq.ft., RCC Roofed residential building, with red oxide flooring, jungle wood used for doors and ordinary steel used for windows, with all civic amenities and bounded on the:- **East :** by the other portion of site settled on Sri. R.S. Kumar, **West :** by site bearing Municipal No. 41(Old No.30), **North:** by Road and **South :** site bearing Municipal No.67(Old No.33 & 34).
7	**Borrowers: (1) Mr. Venkatachalapathy S,** # 004, Srivenkata Sai Nilayam, Ground Floor 1st Main, Munekola, Shrdi Sai Nagar, Bengaluru-560037 **(2) Mr. Venkatachalapathy S,** Test Labs IT Solutions Private Limited, **Designation:** Testing Manager, **Department:** TI, **Employee No:** TL 669 A Block, 3rd Floor, Embassy Heights, Magrath Road, Ashok Nagar, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085 **(3) Mr. Venkatachalapathy S,** Flat-209, 2nd Floor, Vasudha Springs Apartment, S No 67/1 & 100, K-Dommasandra Village, Bidarhalli, Virgonagar, Garudacharpalya, Mahadevapura, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560036, **Co-Borrowers : (1) Mrs. Vijayalakshmi K E**, # 004, Srivenkata Sai Nilayam, Ground Floor 1st Main, Munekola, Shrdi Sai Nagar, Bengaluru 560037 **(2) Mrs. Vijayalakshmi K E,** Flat-209, 2nd Floor, Vasudha Springs Apartment, S No 67/1 & 100, K-Dommasandra Village, Bidarhalli, Virgonagar, Garudacharpalya, Mahadevapura, K R Puram, Bengaluru -560036.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 636232531 Rs.21,71,517/- (2) 641767273 Rs. 1,34,816/- Total Rs.23,06,333/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Six Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Three Only) as on 31.05.2021**	**11.06.2021 N.P.A. Date: (e) 30.11.2020**	**Schedule-A:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Present 'E' Katha Property **SL. No. 150200401700320105,** converted land bearing **Sy.No.100,** present portion Katha No.93/100, (converted vide Conversion certificate bearing No. ALN:(EBK) SR: 9/2013-14, dated 25.07.2013), situated at Dommasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring about 32 Guntas out of 2 Acres 16.12 Guntas, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and is bounded on the, **East by :** remaining portion of same Sy. No. 100, **West by:** Land in Sy.No.101, **North by :** Land in Sy.No.102, **South by :** Road. **Schedule-B:** **418.42 Sq. ft** undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in schedule "A" above. **Schedule-C:** **Flat bearing No.209,** in **Second Floor,** measuring about **1355 Sq.ft** super built up area, containing **Three bed rooms,** together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring along with One covered car parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as **"VASUDHA SPRINGS"** constructed over schedule "A" property. Boundaries of Schedule "C" **East by :** Flat No.208, **West by :** Land in Sy No.101, **North by:** Flat No.210, **South by:** Road.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 28.06.2021
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
HDFC Ltd., Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

`15,282 cr was invested by foreign portfolio investors into Indian equities market between June 1 and 25, after remaining net sellers for two months in a row.

Money lessons from World Test Championship

RAJAS KELKAR

IT did not go India's way. New Zealand played some exceptional cricket and pipped India to win the inaugural World Test Championship.

Yes, you are right. This column is not about cricket or sports. However, the game is played in mind much before the first ball is bowled. Like how cricket teams prepare for important matches, you need to do something similar for your money.

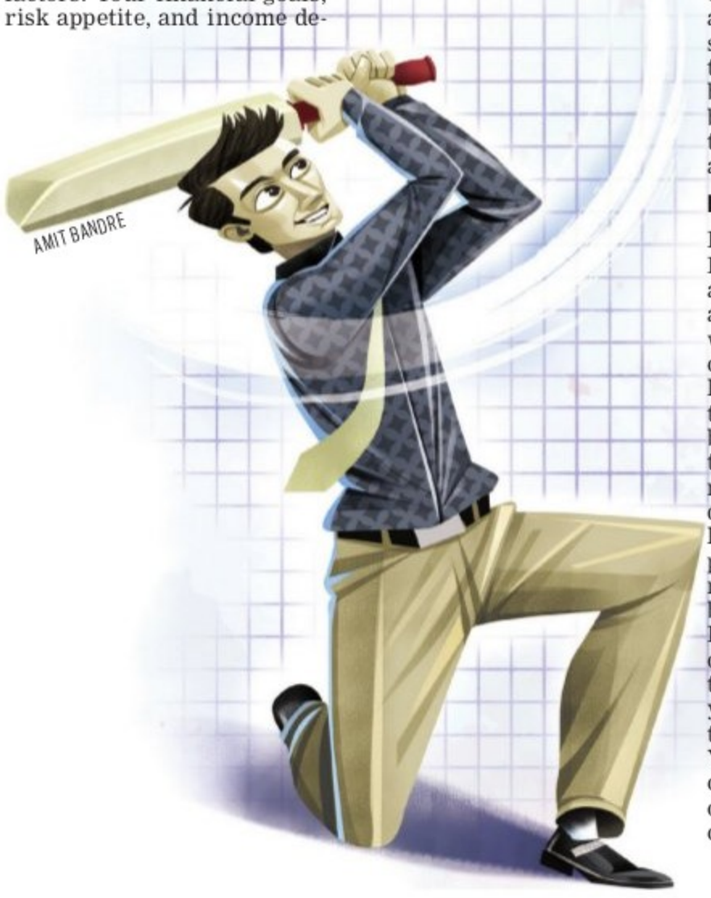
Here are a few lessons that you could use for your finances from the recently concluded cricket event.

Team selection

New Zealand picked the right team. They chose a team suited for the pitch. They had five bowlers who could swing or move the ball off the pitch. India went with three seam bowlers and two spinners. The thought was that the same team won matches in the past in different conditions. However, it did not work for India last week. Your asset allocation is just like the team selection, and it depends on a combination of factors. Your financial goals, risk appetite, and income determine the balance you need in your investments. Just like they pick different teams for test cricket and limited-overs cricket, you may want to create small groups of instruments suitable to each financial goal. The same set of investments may not work for all plans. For example, retirement is a long-term goal, and hence you must have more allocation to equity assets for this goal. Buying a car is a short-term goal, and you must have a higher allocation to debt funds or fixed-income investments.

Temperament

According to expert opinion widely published, the New Zealand batters and bowlers showed better temperament in the game. Their batters left alone deliveries outside the off-stump, and bowlers kept bowling in the right areas making India's batters play shots. In the process, they protected their wickets and took twenty Indian wickets. There was a point when it looked like India's batters would take the game away from New Zealand by playing some aggressive cricket. However, they stuck to the plan and showed patience. Your investments require a similar approach. If you get emotional and act, you could lose opportunities or make losses. The grit needed to hold on to your equity investments for years without giving in to the short-term temptation to book profits and spend determines the future of your money.



Support staff and training

A lot of analysis is done before every game. The support staff of cricket teams help in picking the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition. You must also anticipate that the opponent would target your weaknesses. The support staff of both teams worked hard. You could see the tension in the game even when New Zealand crawled in the second innings to a famous victory. It would help if you created your support team for your investments. Like teams need to analyse the data on the right way to bowl on a particular pitch or to a specific player, you need knowledge about the right way to invest. Arm yourself with some knowledge before jumping into the stock market or buying any financial service like insurance or mutual funds. Getting a financial advisor would be like getting a coach. It would be best if you had someone to guide you to do a proper asset allocation.

Learning from your mistakes

In the first innings when India batted, New Zealand allowed Indian openers to get away with a good start. That was despite bowler-friendly conditions. While the New Zealand team succeeded in getting three wickets, they could have been happier to get more on that day. They learnt from the mistakes they made on the first day and adjusted their bowling length. The next day, they pitched most deliveries in the right area to make the Indian batters play. The result was that India's first innings folded up quickly. That tells you about a timely adjustment needed to your portfolio when you realise that you have made a mistake. You must work with your financial advisor to get emotions out of the way and make necessary changes to cut any losses.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

I-T returns: What's new this year?

One of the significant changes this year is the option of a new or simplified tax regime

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

CITING the hardships being faced amid the devastating second wave of Covid-19 pandemic, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the deadline to file Income Tax Return (ITR), allowing individuals to file their tax returns for income earned during the financial year 2020-21 by September 30.

Even as taxpayers have now got some more time to file their ITR, taxpayers are struggling to meet the increased compliance burden. Besides, just when taxpayers were trying to fix the complex puzzle of choosing between the new and old tax regime, introduction of a brand new e-filing website has only added to their woes.

It is important for a taxpayer to know these changes in order to file an error-free ITR. One of the new features this year is that the tax department will give pre-filled information, including the interest earned, dividend received, capital gains on shares and mutual funds in the tax forms to the taxpayers. However, it will be better to cross check these details with documents such as Form 16, Form 26AS and bank statements before you start filing your ITR.

According to Harsh Bhuta – Partner at Bhuta Shah and Co LLP, this year the return filing will require some additional compliances, especially if you receive any dividend income.

For instance, from the financial year 2020-21, the government has made dividends distributed by a company taxable in the hands of the investors. Taxpayers will have to provide quarterly reports of such dividends received. Also, the dividend, which was earlier shown under 'Exempted Income', now should be shown under 'Income from other sources'. This quarterly reporting is mandatory to avail relaxation of advance tax penalties on dividend income.

Taxpayers also have to give details of employee stock ownership plan (ESOPs) received by the employee from an eligible start-up wherein tax on the same is deferred.

No monetary ceiling

There is no monetary ceiling prescribed for reporting the transactions related to capital gains, dividend and interest income. It will only come pre-filled in the ITR forms.

Old vs New tax regime

One of the significant changes this year is the option of new or the 'simplified tax regime'. This is the first assessment year where taxpayers will have to choose between the new and the earlier-followed regime.

"Under the new regime tax slabs rates of 5 per cent, 10 per cent, 15 per cent, 20 per cent and 25 per cent are applicable on each successive increase of ₹2.5 lakh starting from the basic exemption of ₹2.5 lakh till a total income of 15 lakh. However, the taxpayer needs to forego various tax deductions and exemptions otherwise available under the old regime," explained Pitam Goel, founder partner, Tattvam & Co. For instance, standard deduction for salaried class, house rent allowance, leave travel allowance (LTA), other deductions like section 80C of ITA (covering EPF, LIC, PPF, etc), section 80D of ITA (Health Insurance), 80CCD of ITA (NPS), home loan interest deduction, etc will not be available under the new tax regime.

According to Aarti Raote, Partner Deloitte India, the selection of the 'regular tax regime' or the 'simplified tax regime' is dependent on the facts of each taxpayer.

"Taxpayers who claim significant amounts in deductions like house rent allowance, leave travel assistance, housing interest or chapter VI-A deductions like 80C or 80E (interest education loan) would find that the old or regular tax regime is more favourable. However, an employee not claiming such deductions would be better off under the new simplified tax regime. One can use the tax simulator to find out which regime suits better to make a wise choice," Raote explained. While the selection option is stricter for business, salaried individuals with income from salary, house property and other income can change the regime every year.

New website

In a bid to make income tax return filing easier, the tax department has launched a new website on June 7.

Despite some technical glitches, the new portal boasts of several new features. Apart from mobile friendly and easy to use interface, the user profile section also includes options to update details such as bank accounts, demat accounts, sources of income, which will be used in pre-filing ITR, after necessary returns are filed by other stakeholders such as employers, banks etc. This would save a lot of the taxpayer's time when filing returns.

Taxpayers can also give access to chartered accountants who would be able take necessary action on behalf of the taxpayer such as filing grievances, filing form 15CB etc.

CHOOSE YOUR ITR FORM

ITR-1
- Individuals having income up to `50 lakh
- Income from salaries ■ Income from one house property ■ Income from other sources (interest, etc.) Agricultural income up to ₹5,000

ITR-2
- Individuals and HUFs not having gains from a business, profession
- Income from salaries ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources (interest, etc.) ■ Agricultural income up to ₹5,000 ■ Income under capital gains

ITR-3
- Individuals and HUFs having gains from a business, profession
- Income from salaries ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources (interest, etc.) ■ Agricultural income up to ₹5,000 ■ Income under capital gains ■ Income under from profits and gains of business or profession

ITR-4
- Individuals, HUFs and firms (other than LLP) having a total income up to `50 lakh
- Income from profits and gains of business or profession computed under Section 44AD, 44ADA or 44AE ■ Income from salaries ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources (interest, etc.)

ITR-5
- Applicable to AOP/BOI/ executor of AJP, not applicable to : (i) Individual (ii) HUF (iii) Company (iv) Person filing Form ITR-7
- Gains from business or profession ■ Income as capital gains ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources (interest, etc.)

ITR-6
- Companies other than those claiming exemption under Section 11 (Exemption for income derived from property held under trust wholly for charitable or religious purposes to the extent such income is applied for charitable or religious purpose in India)
- Income from profits and gains of business or profession ■ Income as capital gains ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources

ITR-7
- Persons covered under : (i) Section 139(4A) (ii) Section 139(4B) (iii) Section 139(4C) and (iv) Section 139(4D)
- Income as capital gains ■ Income from house property ■ Income from other sources ■ Income from profit and gains of business or profession

■ ITR FORMS ■ APPLICABLE FOR ■ SOURCES OF INCOME COVERED

INFORMATIONS REQUIRED THIS YEAR TO FILE ITR

Head of Income	Standard Requirements
Salary	Aadhar card of taxpayer PAN card of the taxpayer Form 16 Form 16A Salary Slips Form 26AS Deductions u/s 80C to 80U
Capital	Capital gain statements (long term and short term)
Profit and Gains from Business or Profession	Details about business and professional income
House Property	Details about house properties and income thereof
Other Sources	Details about income in the form of dividends, interests, lottery incomes, income from betting on horse races, etc. which do not form the part of above mentioned income heads

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

DIVI'S LAB

Current Price ₹4,251

Target Price ₹4,850

DIVI has had a successful track record, with leading market share in the supply of large volume APIs, on the back of pro-active capacity addition, technology upgrades driving cost-efficiency, consistent compliance, as well as robust supply chain management. Its next leg of growth is likely to come from 16 new molecules it is now working on. We expect a 32% earnings CAGR over FY21-23E, aided by promising demand prospects.

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

EXPRESS READ

Global cues, manufacturing PMI to drive market this week

New Delhi: Indian equity market ended last week on a positive note with Sensex and Nifty gaining 1.1 per cent each. At Friday's close, the Sensex was at 52925.04, while the Nifty ended at 15860.40. This week, experts say, there are multiple factors that will dictate market movement. Firstly, investors will keenly observe developments in the global market after the US indices witnessed significant gain last week. Besides, investors will also keep a tab on June auto sales numbers and Nikkei Markit Manufacturing PMI numbers. Both are to scheduled to be released on July 1. "On the flip side, the possibility of the third wave can impact sentiments. We remain cautiously optimistic on the markets and suggest aligning the positions accordingly," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

MONEY-WISE

USING HYBRID FUNDS TO RIDE MARKET VOLATILITY

LAST fortnight we looked at how Balanced Advantage Funds (BAF) — a category of hybrid mutual fund schemes — help investors to ride market volatility without hurting themselves irrevocably. Now let's turn our focus to some fund offerings from this category.

With an AUM of ₹1,764 crore, L&T BAF has a current asset allocation of 32 per cent in pure equity. The equity-debt mix is decided taking into consideration the factors like interest rates and equity valuations like P/E Ratio and P/B Ratio. The debt portion of investments includes GOI securities and AAA rated papers. The primary sector allocation on the equity side includes Financials, Healthcare and Technology. The three-month return for this scheme is 3.7 per cent and its six-month return stands at 4.8 per cent.

DSP Dynamic Asset Allocation Fund has an AUM of ₹3,561 crore and its current asset allocation is 30 per cent in pure equity. The exposure to equity instruments is decided by using P/E and P/B ratio to determine valuation attractiveness. The fund also uses technical indicators like immediate-, medium- and long-term market trends. The equity portion is largely invested in sectors like Financials, Chemicals and Technology whereas, debt instruments include GOI securities and debentures with AAA, AA+ ratings. The fund has given returns of 4.3 per cent over a three-month period and 5.9 per cent over a six-month time frame.

FINANCIAL ADVICE
ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

ICICI BAF has an AUM of ₹32,188 crore and uses quantitative indicators for debt-equity allocation. The indicators used for the equity component are average P/BV and average P/E. It uses indicators like YTM and modified duration for the debt component in its portfolio. The pure equity allocation now is 35 per cent in equity and its investments are primarily in the Financials, Energy and Automobile sectors. Its debt investments include Treasury Bills and AA-rated bonds. The returns for this fund over a three-month and six-month time frame is 4.5 and 9.1 per cent, respectively.

Axis Dynamic Equity Fund has an AUM of ₹1,349 crore and uses P/E, market trends and volatility to determine its equity allocation. The current asset allocation of this fund is 55 per cent in equity. The debt portion comprises FDs and AAA rated debentures and bonds. Financial, Technology and FMCG are the major sectors in the Equity portfolio of this fund. The returns over three-months have been 4.8 per cent and 6.8 per cent over a six-months period.

Edelweiss BAF has an AUM of ₹3,881 crore and it uses an in-house asset allocation model. It takes into consideration factors like market trend which is analysed using DMA of Nifty 50 over different time frames and also trend health. Its current equity holding is 65 percent. Its debt holdings include commercial papers and GOI securities whereas its equity holdings are primarily in Financials, Technology and Healthcare. The fund has registered returns of 6.2 per cent and 10.8 per cent over a three and six month timeframe. As is evident from the diverse current equity holding levels of various BAFs, it would be smarter to select based on one's risk profile to avoid disappointment.

PART-II

'Hold on to equity investments as long as you can'

PANKAJ CHOPRA

IN the context of investments, a tricky question to answer is — what is long term?

Most answers that you would get would be three years or maybe a range of 3 to 5 years. None of these are wrong, but they are at best contextually right. What I mean is that the term of investment is also dependent on the asset class you are talking about.

Investment into real estate is probably for the real long term. Similarly, the affinity of Indians to gold is such that the term of holding actually spans generations. On the other hand, debt investments including deposits and bonds have a maturity date and mostly, the term for that investment coincides with the maturity period.

Therefore, the term of investment is most relevant while investing in equities. This is because equities are virtually perpetual. Unless the company closes down or delists its shares, there is no end date on equity shares. Whether you choose to hold them for a day or for decades, they will be there for you. The choice is yours.

According to me, long term investing is a concept rather than a number. What long term investing denotes is the quest for owning a part of a business and the intent to grow along with it, rather than owning scraps of paper without a clue of the underlying value, in the hope of selling them at a higher price to someone even more ignorant.

Markets can be extremely volatile in day-to-day terms. Whether they will be up or down tomorrow is impossible to say based on events that have happened today. Even in the medium term of a few months and a couple of years, markets may show trends that may be favourable or not, without any apparent reason.

Benjamin Graham, who is called the father of investing and who taught the legendary investor of our times, Warren Buffet once said: "In the short run market is a voting machine, but in the long run, it is a weighing machine". What this means is that in the short term, markets may be swayed by sentiment, but in the longer term, they evaluate each business closely and value it appropriately.

Therefore, accounting for volatility and shorter-term trends in the markets, one should have in mind a minimum holding period when investing into equities. This can be 3 years or 5 years but the longer it is, the better the results will be. If you have ever sold your equity investments in a hurry during a crash, it means you either had too much of them in your portfolio or did not have the right mindset to ride through difficult times.

I would strongly suggest you hold on to equity investments as long as you can. To give you some specifics, the BSE Sensex was set up as the first index to monitor the Indian stock markets, in the year 1979.

As with any other index, the selected 30 companies were collectively rebased to a value of 100 and we started from there. Today, 42 years down the line, the Index is at around 52,500. That is 525 times the initial value or a compounded return of 16 per cent per annum for this period.

While the markets today are hitting new highs and there is worry all around, if you have allocated to equities properly and are confident of your investments, either directly or through a money manager, there is no cause for worry. Even if your equity investments go down from here, over the years they will come up again and reward you handsomely.

(The author is the founder of Five Rivers Portfolio Managers and can be reached at pankaj@5riversindia.com)

Verstappen dominates to win Styrian Grand Prix

Max Verstappen tightened his grip on the Formula One driver's standings as he cruised to victory in the Styrian Grand Prix on Sunday with his closest challenger Lewis Hamilton a distant second. The Dutchman started from pole in his Red Bull and led throughout to finish more than 35 seconds head of British reigning champion Hamilton in his Mercedes.

Patrik Schick scored his fourth goal of the tournament in Czech Republic's win at Puskas Arena in Budapest on Sunday | AFP

SCHICK REPUBLIC

Shock victory over 10-man Netherlands puts Czech in quarterfinals

AFP @ Budapest

THE Czech Republic reached the Euro 2020 quarterfinals Sunday after shocking 10-man Netherlands 2-0 in their last-16 tie in Budapest thanks to second-half strikes by Tomas Holes and Patrik Schick.

A header by Holes and clinical finish by Schick came after Matthijs de Ligt was sent off in the 55th minute, securing the efficient Czechs a deserved berth in the last eight against Denmark in Baku on July 3.

Having emerged as Group C winners with a 100 percent record after playing all three of their games in Amsterdam, Frank de Boer's fancied Netherlands were on the road for the first time in the tournament.

Roared on by boisterous ranks of orange-clad fans in a packed Puskas Arena, the only Euro 2020 venue not to limit stadium capacity as an anti-coronavirus precaution, it was the livelier Dutch who dominated the opening exchanges. But after soaking up the early pressure Jaroslav Silhavy's well-organised side, who qualified as one of the four best third-placed sides, began posing threats of their own with a series of dangerous counter-attacks.

Early in the second period the advantage swung decisively the Czechs way when De Ligt was sent off by the Russian referee Sergei Karasev after a VAR review for handball.

Then 68 minutes in a curled free-kick from the right by Barak was headed across goal by Tomas Kalas to the unmarked Holes who had time to place his header and spark bedlam among the Czech fans.

Ten minutes from the end Schick sealed the win with his fourth goal of Euro 2020, slotting home with his left foot at the near post after the rampant Holes pounced on a loose ball and laid on a clever cut-back.

Italy go extra mile

Italy overcame stubborn Austria 2-1 in extra-time at Wembley on Saturday to reach the quarterfinals.

Roberto Mancini's side, who earned rave reviews after their cruise through the group phase, were made to work hard for their win and had super subs Federico Chiesa and Matteo Pessina to thank.

The victory means Italy have now set a new record of 31 matches unbeaten, surpassing the mark set under two-time World Cup-winning coach Vittorio Pozzo in the 1930s.

Can Spain pass their way past Croatia?

Spain will enjoy plenty of the ball against Croatia, but what they do with that possession is likely to determine the outcome. France, meanwhile, will want to hit top gear and show that they mean business against Switzerland. We take a look at Monday's matches...

Croatia vs Spain | Copenhagen | 9.30pm

Spain finally came to the party with a 5-0 thrashing of the Slovakians in their final group game. As expected, the Spaniards had plenty of possession in each of their three group matches, but a lack of incisiveness in front of goal let them down at times. If Spain don't turn up, they will be punished without doubt by players of the calibre of Luka Modric and Mateo Kovacic.

Key players: Pedri (Spain), Luka Modric (Croatia)

France vs Switzerland | Bucharest | 12.30am

For all the talent and experience at their disposal, France haven't quite been at their best so far. Expectations are perhaps influenced by the incredibly high standards they have set for themselves. Regardless, they should have plenty in their armoury to get past Switzerland and enter quarterfinals. Switzerland will look to set up defensively and make things difficult for France.

Key players: Kylian Mbappe (France), Xherdan Shaqiri (Switzerland)

The butterfly effect: Swimmer Sajan's persistence behind historic splash

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

AFTER completing the fourth and final lap in the 200m butterfly event at the Setti Coli Trophy in Rome Saturday, Sajan Prakash turned his head towards the timing board. It read 1:56.38s, meaning an A cut and a direct Tokyo Olympics entry. He explained his immediate reaction then, "I was in tears. I cannot explain more than that."

His emotions were understandable considering the difficult times he underwent especially last year. It was around December 2019 the Kerala man suffered a slipped disk injury in his neck. The situation was so dire that the swimmer withdrew from the 2019 South Asian Games in Nepal. He had to undergo rehabilitation for a few months, and just when things were looking positive, he was dealt another serious blow in May — Chikungunya. Not to forget the Covid-enforced lockdown restrictions in Thailand, where he was training under the FINA scholarship programme. "And then I got an opportunity to come to Dubai in all this, and then things slowly started getting better," said Sajan, who featured in the Rio Olympics through the Universality quota.

Had the quadrennial event gone ahead as originally scheduled in 2020, Sajan might not have been in the best of shape to deliver his best. After he resumed training under coach Pradeep Kumar at the Aqua Nation Swimming Academy in Dubai, things got better.

Pradeep, who has been training Sajan for a long time, played a vital role in helping him achieve the A-mark with some strict training procedures. "It is all about what we did in training. We cannot just call it luck. We worked hard. I could see myself progressing in the 200m butterfly. I used to suit up and race in training. I created a racing simulation, generate good speed in training, like how I used to go in the race. It is like visualising, but you go and swim the real race in training. I saw improvements. The last time I swam fast in training was 1:58 without shaving and a taper, so I knew I could go faster," said Sajan.

With the Olympics less than a month away, the 27-year-old looks to be in good form. After having done well in Belgrade recently, his performances only got better in Rome. Sajan is expected to prepare his final lap of preparations with Pradeep in Dubai before he heads over to Tokyo to become the first Indian swimmer to compete in back-to-back Olympics.

Fourth straight defeat for India women in ODIs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

INDIA women suffered their fourth consecutive loss in ODI cricket as they went down to England by eight wickets in the first ODI in Bristol on Sunday.

After losing the home series to South Africa 1-4 in March, Mithali Raj & Co were looking to return to winning ways but they were plagued by the same problems. An inept batting performance was once again to blame as they only managed a paltry score of 201 for 8 from 50 overs. In reply, the hosts were ruthlessly efficient, chasing down the target with 91 balls to spare. Tammy Beaumont and Nat Sciver led the run chase for England with unbeaten knocks of 87 and 74 respectively.

Their efforts completely overshadowed Mithali's 72 off 108 balls, a day after she completed 22 years in international cricket. The 38-year-old could have scored quicker, but she was hampered by regular fall of wickets.

Debutant Shafali Verma started the Indian innings brightly with three quick boundaries before departing for 15. Smriti Mandhana followed Shafali back to the dressing room shortly after as the hosts gained control. It was a hard grind from thereon.

Brief scores: India 201/8 in 50 ovs (Mithali 72; Sophie 3/40) lost to England 202/2 in 34.5 ovs (Tammy 87 n.o, Nat 74 n.o) by 8 wickets.

Priority is to win series and fill the gaps: Dravid

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

WITH the three T20Is in Sri Lanka being India's last limited-overs assignment before the T20 World Cup, head coach for the tour, Rahul Dravid has ruled out any experiments. Shikhar Dhawan-led Indian team comprising of white-ball specialists heads to Sri Lanka on Monday to take part in three T20Is and as many ODIs starting in Colombo on July 13.

With no more international fixtures lined up because of BCCI's decision to resume the IPL in September, India will head to the T20 World Cup without a chance to field their full-strength squad. That said, India have more or less finalised their squad with only a couple of slots still vacant. With this in picture, Dravid said that winning the series in Sri Lanka takes priority over anything else.

"There are a lot of people in the squad who are pushing for places ahead of the T20 World Cup coming up, but the key goal, and we've had discussions around it, is to win the series. That is the primary objective. Hopefully, if people can put in some good performances during the course of us trying to win the series, they will give themselves the best chance of knocking on the doors of the selectors," Dravid said.

In their last T20 series against England at home, India rotated the players to give a fair chance to everyone. With regulars, Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar in England, India can give an opportunity to those in the fray in the island nation. In that sense, the series is important for the likes of Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Chahar and Varun Chakravarthy to seal their spots.

"These are the only games before the T20 World Cup and I am sure the selectors and management have a fair idea by now on the squad they are looking for. It's a chance for a few people to push for the one or two spots the management may be looking for, just to give them a few more options over the next few T20s. I've had a little bit of contact with the team management in England, but I didn't want to disturb them during the WTC final, but I will touch base over the next couple of weeks on what their plans are," Dravid said.

India will undergo three-day hard quarantine in Colombo.

GOAT DEBATE TO RESUME ON GRASS

The year's third Major comes into view as SW19 gears up to host Wimbledon after the no show on 2020 due to the pandemic. Here's a look at some potential storylines...

ALL EYES ON DJOKOVIC

It's hard to look past a fit World No 1 in a normal year. In a field missing Rafa Nadal, Dominic Thiem and both Andy Murray and Roger Federer still not at their best, this title has 'N Djokovic' written all over it. If he does, it will ofcourse signal a new era in the GOAT debate what with all three of Federer, Nadal and the Serb himself tied on 20 apiece.

FEDERER'S LAST HURRAH?

The king of this parish didn't even bother turning up for an extra match at the French Open to conserve his body for this. So the pressure will be on him to vindicate that decision. Could easily be his last ever appearance at Wimbledon considering he will turn 40 less than a month after the Championships.

TSITSIPAS, MEDVEDEV & THE REST

Because of a few failing bodies and a few showing some signs of coping with Major tennis, a few have managed to breakthrough. Since 2019, all of Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev and Stefanos Tsitsipas have all advanced to a final. The smart money is on one of these guys to again make the journey to the promised land.

SERENA'S PERSONAL BATTLE WITH 24

When Serena Williams won her 23rd Major it was a question of when and not if apropos equalling Margaret Court's record of 24. It was 2017. Four years and 13 Slams later, it's now firmly in if and when territory. This surface represents her best opportunity to do it, a place where she has at least reached the final every year since 2015. That Simona Halep and Naomi Osaka aren't there are positives in her quest for immortality.

MEN: Novak Djokovic (SRB x1) vs Jack Draper (GBR), Andy Murray (GBR) vs Nikoloz Basilashvili (GEO x24), Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x3) vs Frances Tiafoe (USA). **WOMEN:** Monica Niculescu (ROU) vs Aryna Sabalenka (BLRx2), Iga Swiatek (POL x7) vs Hsieh Su-wei (TPE), Sloane Stephens (USA) vs Petra Kvitova (CZE x10).

Sharath keen to extend camp

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

THE national table tennis camp is underway at DPS Sonepat and there are talks scheduled for Monday to increase its duration by another week.

Currently, the camp is set to conclude on July 5, following which most of the paddlers will be heading home before embarking for Tokyo on July 17. But in the case of India's No 1 paddler A Sharath Kamal, he wants to train for another week. Dearth of competitions and foreign exposure options means training in the camp is the best option for the soon-to-be four-time Olympian.

There will be a round of discussions with TTFI and SAI in order to train at the same premises. If that does not materialize, Sharath is also looking at options in New Delhi. Four players — Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, Payas Jain and Sudhanshu Grover — have already confirmed their availability.

Full copy: newindianexpress.com

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yagachi Project Division, Belur

Addendum to Short Term Tender Notification No.04/2021-22, Dated: 14.06.2021 (Through e-procurement portal only)

In the Short Term Tender Notification No. : 04/2021-22, dated 14.06.2021 called on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore for the work of **"Diversion of Water from Ranaghatta Pick up Weir for filling of Dwarasamudra and other 6 tanks in Belur taluk, Hassan district and Belavadi tank in Chikkamagalore taluk of Karnataka state".** (Indent No. 35545), as per Tender Addendum-1 Dtd:19.06.2021 Price Adjustment Clause 40 and respective sub clauses have been deleted. Now as per modification (Addendum-2) Dtd:26.06.2021 please read as "Price Adjustment Clause 40 and respective sub clauses APPLICABLE" as per the prevailing Government orders. All other conditions remain same.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Yagachi Project Division, Belur
ವಾಸಾನಂಜ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿವಿ/177/2020–21

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following work.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM) 5th Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	WWM-V.V	BWSSB/EE(WWM-V.V) /PB/315/2021-22 Dated: 24.06.2021	₹ 90.06 Lakhs / ₹ 1.81 Lakhs	12.07.2021 upto 5:30 pm	14.07.2021 at 4:00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-V.V)		
2.	WWM-C.V	BWSSB/EE(WWM)-CV /PB/402/2021-22 Dated: 21.06.2021	₹ 19.01 Lakhs / ₹ 48,000/-	05.07.2021 upto 4:00 pm	06.07.2021 at 4:10 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-C.V)		

The detail regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR:/653/2021-22

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e-Mail:**mei.matls9@gmail.com** Visit us at **www.mei.karnataka.gov.in**
Ref.No.: MEIL/ADMN/MANPOWER SERVICES/2021-22/128 Dt: 28.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement)

PROVIDING VARIOUS MANPOWER SERVICES ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AND EXTENDABLE FOR TWO MORE YEARS.

Calendar of Events: (1) Publishing of documents by e-Procurement cell: **30.06.2021. (2)** Last date for submission of queries online: **06.07.2021. (3)** Last date and time for submission of Technical & Financial bids (Cover-I & II) along with EMD: **13.07.2021. (4)** Opening of BIDS: **15.07.2021**
Please visit us at **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
For any details and clarifications. Contact Phone Nos.: **080-23379506 / 23379507**

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
SRI BANASHANKARI TEMPLE
S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bangalore - 70. Ph : 080-2671 4989
E-mail: sribanashankaritemple@gmail.com

B.S.T.4/CR.09/2020-21 Date : 28.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION (through E-procurement portal)

Tenders are invited for above detailed total 02 tenders through e-procurement portal. Interested persons may obtain the details from the website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further information contact above addressed office.

Sl. No	Details of Tender	Tender Number	Date of Tender Submission Date in Online From	To	Date of Tender Opening in Online
1	Providing 22 Security Guard	B.S.T.4/CR.08/ 2020-21	28.06.2021	08.07.2021	09.07.2021
2	Providing of Vehicles to Assistant Executive Officers	B.S.T.5/CR.16/ 2020-21	28.06.2021	08.07.2021	09.07.2021

DIPR/DDU/Shirdi Sai/674/2021-22 **Sd/- Executive Officer**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group, ISRO HQ,
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road,
HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008
Ph:080-25037-387/388/210/192 Fax: 080-25203763

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

Name of work	**Construction of Office Building for NSIL at Devanahalli (Design, Supply, Fabrication, Erection and Commissioning of Pre-Fabricated Steel Building including associated Civil, PH and Electrical works)**
NIT No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/04/2021-22 Dt. 28.06.2021**
Estimated Cost	**Rs. 8.50 Crore**
Period of Completion	**45 Days**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 18:10 Hrs on 28.06.2021 to 23:59 Hrs on 04.07.2021**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 15:30 Hrs on 06.07.2021**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**16:30 Hrs on 06.07.2021**

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Also, detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, can be downloaded from website:**www.isro.gov.in**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Maharashtra Film, Stage & Cultural Development Corporation Ltd. (MFSCDCL) is desirous of infrastructure development within Filmcity premises on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. MFSCDCL invites applications from interested national and international players in Film & Media Entertainment (F&ME) sector.

Total Available Land		22 acres
Development of Core Infrastructure		Studio Floors/Outdoor Locations/Post-Production facilities/Related Ancillary Infrastructure
Dates for application		28thJune 2021 to 27th July 2021 till 5:00 PM.
Site visit		05th July 2021 to 15th July 2021
Stakeholders' Consultation		05th July 2021 to 15th July 2021
EOI document is available at		**https://mahatenders.gov.in www.filmcitymumbai.org/News & Events www.maharashtra.gov.in, www.mahasanskruti.org**
Where to Apply	**Mahatenders**	**https://mahatenders.gov.in** (under Tourism and Cultural Affairs Dept.)
	Alternate Option	An e-mail can be sent at **filmcityeoi@gmail.com** as instructed in the EOI document
Contact Person		Ms. Aanchal Goyal, IAS, Joint MD (+91 90235 51003) Mr. Chandrakant Kolekar, Dy. Engineer (+91 92210 40242) Ms. Swapnaja Mahadev Sindkar, FACAO (+91 87797 77517)

By Order
Managing Director, MFSCDCL

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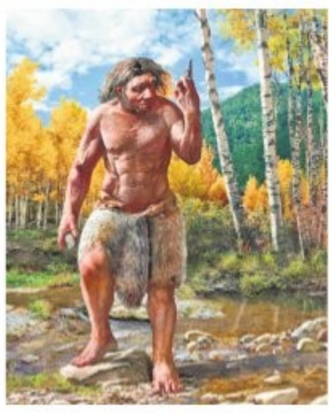
Recent additions to human family tree spark debate

Do skull fossils found in Israel, China really belong to new types of ancient humans?

RESEARCH



A reconstruction of *Dragon Man* in his habitat | CHUANG ZHAO via AFP

RECENTLY published research on fossils from 1,20,000 - 1,40,000 years ago added new species to the ranks of hominins who mingled with early humans. But this has sparked debate.

Two set of fossils are the reason. Bones found in an Israeli quarry hint that a previously unknown group of hominins — closely related to Neanderthals and sharing many of their features — might have dominated life in Levant and lived close to *Homo sapiens*. Meanwhile, a skull preserved almost perfectly for more than 1,40,000 years in northeastern China represents, scientists said, a new species of ancient people more closely related to us than even Neanderthals. They are calling the species *Homo longi*, or *Dragon Man*.

Scientists not involved with the two studies have raised doubt about the findings, as the research is based on the size, shape and structure of fossilised bones, which can be a subjective analysis.

"Separating early hominin specimens into unique species, working out if and how they interacted with others, and tracing their evolution are all difficult and contentious," the news section of the *Nature* journal wrote. "It's very messy," Jeffrey Schwartz, an anthropologist and evolutionary biologist in the US, was quoted as saying.

The issue at the heart of the debate is our ever-expanding knowledge of human evolution. The human family tree has seen several new species of the *Homo* genus added in the last two decades.

In the Israel fossils, scientists believe the skull has unique features that link those hominins to other populations found in prior cave excavations in Israel dating to around 400,000 years ago. They were not Neanderthals, they said in a *Science* paper. But palaeoanthropologist Philip Rightmire at Harvard University told Nature that the skull looks like "early, rather archaic-appearing, Neanderthal", contradicting the paper's conclusions.

The Chinese fossil of the well-preserved skull also may not be of an unique species. "These Asian bits and pieces probably belong to the same group as Denisovans," Rightmire said. Schwartz, the evolutionary biologist, is also not convinced that the skull represents a new species.

EXFILE • NATURE

WHICH ANIMAL VIRUS CAN CAUSE THE NEXT PANDEMIC?

Pathogens, the biggest killers of humanity thus far, arise in two ways. They either evolve from old pathogens or jump from other species to humans. The second way, the more common one in history, is born out of our growing contact with animals in the wild as well as in farms. Scientists have long tracked viruses that can potentially make the leap to people and have published a risk assessment tool for policymakers and researchers to identify such infections, known as zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses. We present 40 viruses that have been evaluated — using a method similar to the credit score kept by banks — to pose the greatest threat to human health (see Figure 1)

VIRUSES DETECTED IN INDIA

Two viruses in the SpillOver list have been detected in wildlife in India: **Rousettus bat coronavirus HKU9**, with a risk score of 80; **Bat adenovirus isolate 1050597**, with a score of 64

HOW THE RISK WAS CALCULATED

Primates and livestock at a home in Ghana | UC Davis

75% of emerging infectious diseases originate from animals

5L animal viruses have the potential to be zoonotic, though the viruses in them are not equally risky for us

887 VIRUSES the ranked database lists, with 38 known to be zoonotic. Influenza would have topped the list, but flu viruses were left out as they are tracked elsewhere

65 EXPERTS were consulted to make the list. A weighted average score for each risk factor was assigned based on the experts' opinion on the degree of risk

Note: Host species are only for mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Risk factors were based on previous spillovers, so new threats could emerge in the future from different sources

31 **risk factors considered:** **9** host, **16** virus, **6** environment

13 countries assessed

SOURCE: "RANKING THE RISK OF ANIMAL-TO-HUMAN SPILLOVER FOR NEWLY DISCOVERED VIRUSES", GRANGE Z, MAZET J ET AL., *PNAS*, MARCH 2021; SPILLOVER.GLOBAL

Compiled by: Aravindakshan S

FIGURE 1 SPILLOVER RISK SCORE

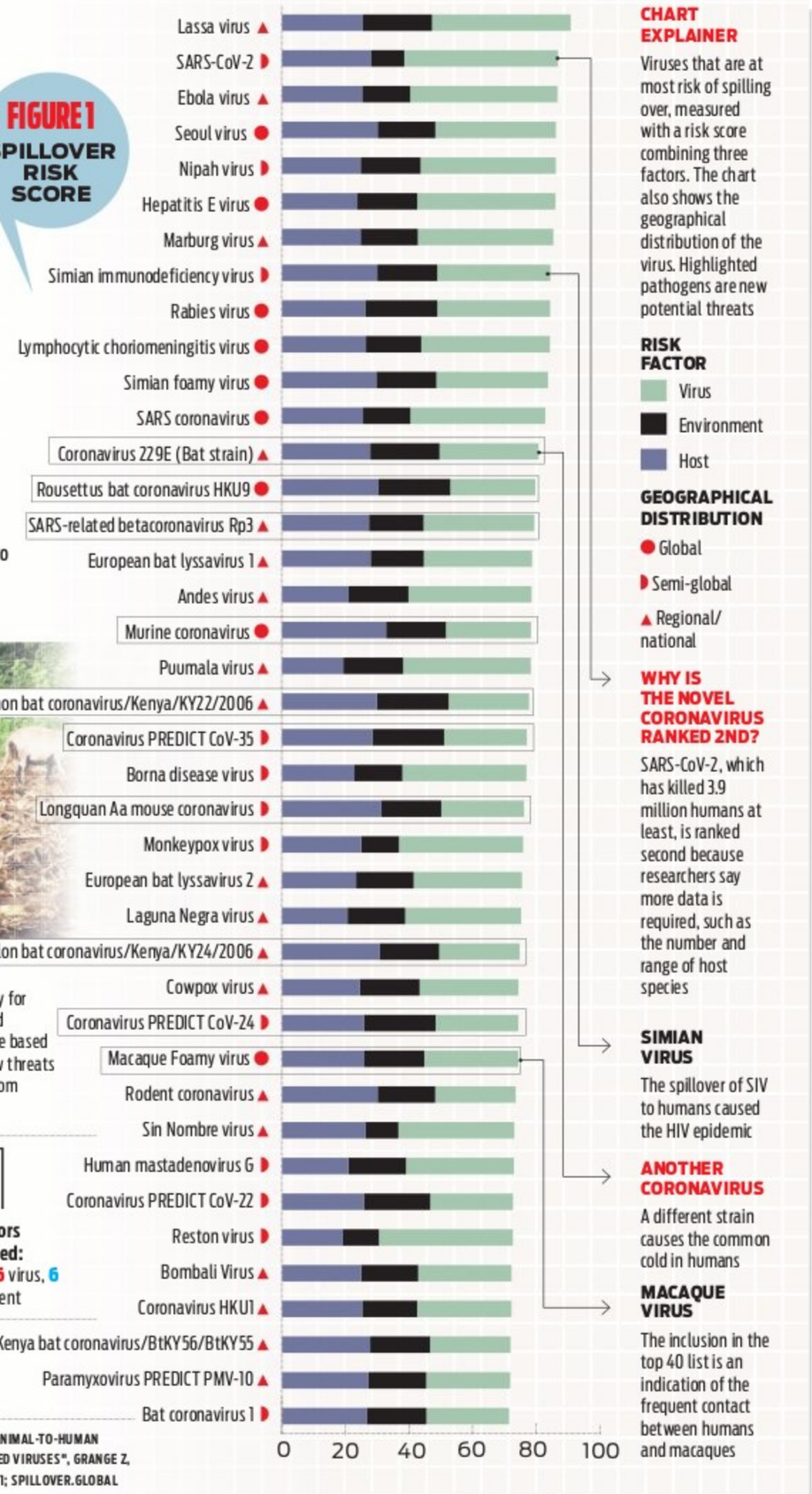


CHART EXPLAINER

Viruses that are at most risk of spilling over, measured with a risk score combining three factors. The chart also shows the geographical distribution of the virus. Highlighted pathogens are new potential threats

RISK FACTOR
Virus
Environment
Host

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION
● Global
◗ Semi-global
▲ Regional/ national

WHY IS THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS RANKED 2ND?

SARS-CoV-2, which has killed 3.9 million humans at least, is ranked second because researchers say more data is required, such as the number and range of host species

SIMIAN VIRUS

The spillover of SIV to humans caused the HIV epidemic

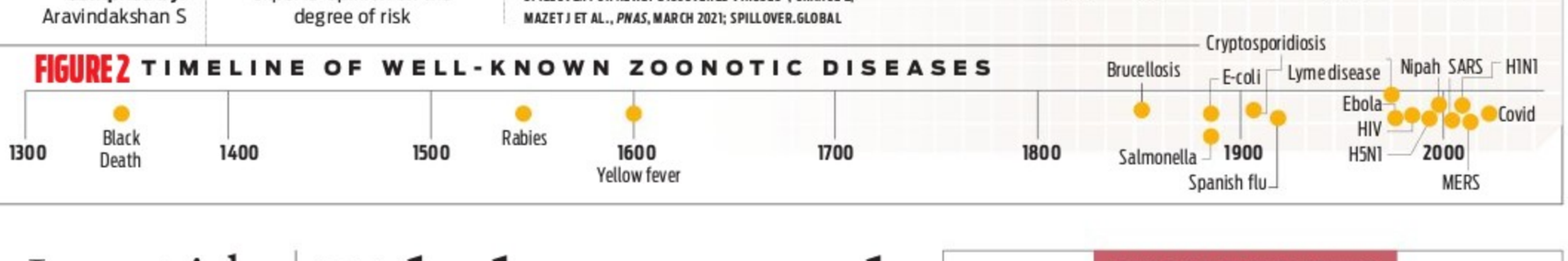
ANOTHER CORONAVIRUS

A different strain causes the common cold in humans

MACAQUE VIRUS

The inclusion in the top 40 list is an indication of the frequent contact between humans and macaques

FIGURE 2 TIMELINE OF WELL-KNOWN ZOONOTIC DISEASES



Edible cholera vax proves safe in Japan trial

MEDICINE

A cholera vaccine that can be ingested after mixing with liquids is safe, results of the first human trial showed.

The vaccine, named MucoRice-CTB, made by grinding up genetically modified grains of rice has shown no obvious side effects and a good immune response, said researchers from the University of Tokyo and Chiba University in Japan.

They have published the peer-reviewed results of the Phase 1 clinical trial of the vaccine in *The Lancet Microbe*.

The MucoRice-CTB vaccine is grown in rice plants and stimulates immunity through the mucosal membranes of the intestines. It remains stable at room temperature, can be stored and transported without refrigeration and does not need needles.

For the study, 30 volunteers received a placebo and groups of 10 volunteers received a total of four doses spaced every two weeks of either 3 mg, 6 mg or 18 mg each of the vaccine.

Tests two and four months after receiving the last dose revealed that volunteers who responded to the vaccine had IgA and IgG antibodies specific to cholera toxin B (CTB). Participants who got a higher dose of vaccine were more likely to have CTB-specific antibodies.

PET CRAZE

A defanged and declawed lion that had been seen in TikTok videos is being confiscated by Cambodian authorities in a Phnom Penh villa on Sunday. A Chinese national had imported the 18-months-old male to the villa | CAMBODIA'S MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT via AFP

B'desh scraps coal projects in big win for green activists

ENVIRONMENT

DHAKA: Bangladesh announced on Sunday that it has scrapped at least 10 major coal-fired power plants as it seeks to scale up its power generation from renewable energy sources.

Nasrul Hamid, the state minister for power and energy, said the decision was taken in light of technological changes and as dozens of countries halt new coal-fired power projects due to their impact on the environment.

"By 2041, there is a plan to generate 40 percent of power from renewable energy," the ministry of energy and power said.

The minister said Dhaka would also import hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan.

The scrapped power plants would have accounted for 8,451 megawatts of power and included ambitious multi-billion dollar projects unveiled by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since she took office in January 2009.

The minister said they included a massive 1,320 megawatt plant on the ecologically fragile Maheshkhali island and a 1,200 megawatt project set to be constructed by a Bangladeshi-Japanese joint venture.

Most of the plants were set to be built in Bangladesh's coastal region, home to 20 million people.

The announcement is seen as a victory for green activists who have staged a series of protests against the coal-fired plants, saying they would cause irreparable damage to the country's fragile ecology.

Sharif Jamil, secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, the country's main environmental group, said they were happy with the announcement.

"It is a very positive step. We thank the government for the bold and courageous step," Jamil told AFP. But he added that he would like to see a major coal-fired power plant near the world's largest mangrove forest also ditched.

FACT OF THE MATTER

World's tiniest hogs released

CONSERVATION

A dozen of the world's smallest pigs have been released into the wild in Assam as part of a conservation programme to boost the population of a species once thought to have become extinct. The pygmy hog (*porcula salvania)* lives in tall, wet grasslands and was once found along plains on the Himalayan foothills in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Its population declined in the 1960s, leading to fears it had become extinct until it was rediscovered in India's northeastern state of Assam in 1971, conservationists say. By 1993, it was only found in a few pockets of Assam's Manas National Park. The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme, established a captive breeding scheme with six hogs in 1996 to revive their population.

Docs' warning on mRNA vax

MEDICINE

A group of doctors in Singapore has urged the nation's expert committee on vaccination to halt the vaccine exercise for some 2 lakh school boys, following the death of a 13-year-old student in the US after he was jabbed. "This is very important as our mRNA programme for boys is massive... one of the most aggressive programmes in the world," cardiologist Dr Kho Kwang Po wrote. A boy in Michigan died three days after getting his second dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, supposedly from heart failure. It is unclear which vaccine he had received. The US FDA recently updated its guidance for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to include warnings about rare heart inflammation.

POLITICAL STRATEGY

To win variant-versus-vaccine race, US switches to campaign-style delivery of doses

MEDICINE

WASHINGTON: Thrown off-stride to reach its Covid-19 vaccination goal, the Biden administration is sending A-list officials across the country, devising ads for niche markets and enlisting community organizers to persuade unvaccinated people to get a shot.

The strategy has the trappings of a political campaign, complete with data crunching to identify groups that can be won over.

But the message is about public health, not ideology. The focus is a group health officials term the "movable middle" — some 55 million unvaccinated adults seen as persuadable, many of them under 30.

"We're not just going to do the mass vaccination sites," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra. "It's door to door. It's mobile clinics. We're doing vaccinations at church, the PTA meeting, the barber shop, the grocery store."

Officials have seized on a compelling new talking point, courtesy of the coronavirus. The potent delta variant that has ravaged India is spreading in the US. Now accounting for about 1 in 5 virus samples genetically decoded in the US, the more transmissible mutation has gained a foothold in Mountain West and heartland states. Many of those infected are young and unvaccinated.

The White House has lent its top names to the vaccine push.

President Joe Biden visited a mobile vaccination site in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Thursday. Earlier in the day, first lady Jill Biden held the hand of a woman at a drive-thru vaccination site in Kissimmee, Florida.

Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris, has racked up thousands of frequent flyer miles, visiting at least 18 or 19 states by his count.

The administration also has recruited celebrities and athletes, including country music star Brad Paisley and the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team. It has teamed up with Twitch and Riot Games to reach online gamers and with Panera and Chipotle to offer free food to those getting a shot.

The message, as Surgeon General Vivek Murthy put it: "If you are vaccinated, you are protected. If you are not, the threat of variants is real and growing."

It's unclear how well the levers of persuasion are functioning. Vaccination rates have dropped below 1 million a day, and there's no sign yet of a turnaround. The administration has acknowledged that it will fall short of its goal of having 70% of adults vaccinated by July Fourth. About 170 million Americans have received at least one vaccine dose.

The US' First Lady Jill Biden comforts Christian Lyles, 13, who expressed his fear of needles while getting vaccinated at Jackson State University | AP

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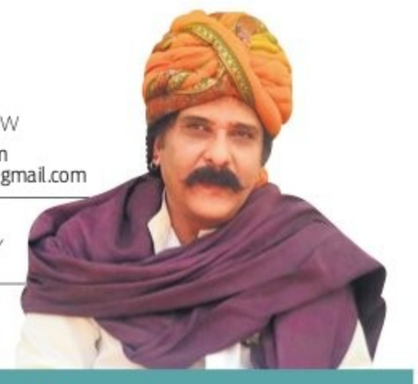


DAY'S DIARY

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz was formed on this day in 1926 by Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz after merging their two companies

JOINT OFFERINGS

They presented the first Daimler-Benz product range in October 1926 at the Berlin Motor Show. They unveiled the passenger car models— The 8/38 hp two-litre car (W 02) and the 12/55 hp three-litre model (W 03)

PRIOR TO MERGER

In the year before the merger, the two companies had already produced almost 6,000 automobiles with a workforce of more than 15,000 people

THE LOGO

The three points of the star in Mercedes-Benz's logo represent land, water, and air, as the company was seeking to prosper on all three fronts

Ravichandran to resume shooting for Kannadiga

PG 4

(From left) Ashvithi and Adhvithi Shetty | PIC: PKSTUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY

VIRAL AWARENESS

This new campaign, initiated by a city-based doctor, delivers the message of masking up and vaccination through a fun rap

SIMRAN AHUJA

FRANTIC calls from loved ones and patients, medical supply shortages, beds running out. As a frontline worker, Dr Vivek Anand Padegal got a first-hand view of the devastating impact of the pandemic's second wave. Though the director of the department of pulmonary medicine at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, has been actively speaking up to spread awareness about Covid-19 safety measures, the new wave brought with it the realisation that, perhaps, a more novel method must be employed to help manage coronavirus. That's when Padegal reached out to Nirvana Films. Together, they've now come out with a fun rap video where the message rings loud and clear: #MukhaMuchkoliMatteVaccineChuckhkoli. "We wanted to create an awareness campaign that strikes a balance between entertainment and delivering a message. The video talks about masking, hand hygiene and vaccination," says Padegal, who also features in the video along with two other doctors. All three are also members of the Karnataka Pulmonologists Association, which has also endorsed this video.

The rap - delivered in Kannada - also uses wordplay on popular local parlance with its #MukhaMuchkoliMatteVaccineChuckhkoli tagline. "We're literally asking the person to shut their mouth with a mask," says Sneha Iype Varma, who is the executive producer and partner at Nirvana Films, adding that the project was self-funded. The video features lyrics by Rajesh Ramaswamy, who also lent his voice for the song, along with Deepak Alexander (who was also the music director) and rapper Sumukh. It also features popular names like rapper Alok Babu or All Ok, Kannada actors Ashvithi and Adhvithi Shetty, and influencer Sonu Venugopal, to name a few.

Sneha Iype Varma

"Adhvithi and I wanted to be a part of this because we knew once the lockdown would be lifted, people might take things lightly. But we wanted to send out the message that wearing a mask and using a sanitiser is important since corona hasn't ended yet," says Ashvithi.

Working on this project proved to be a temporary escape for Padegal, who was insistent on having it in Kannada. "Those who are tech-savvy have received enough messaging. But we wanted to reach an extended audience," he says. The idea was also to prevent a third wave, which is why the video was released just in time as the lockdown was slowly lifted. "After the second wave, I decided to take matters into my own hands. I'm desperate to prevent a third wave, not just for my patients, but for the sake of my own sanity. The only thing we want to make viral is this messaging," says Padegal.

To watch the video, visit the YouTube channel Nirvana Films Website.

I'm desperate to prevent a third wave, not just for my patients, but for the sake of my own sanity. The only thing we want to make viral is the messaging in the video – Dr Vivek Anand Padegal

A DANGEROUS FLIGHT

Manja is now becoming a death trap for birds too, as the lockdown saw more people taking to flying kites

SANATH PRASAD

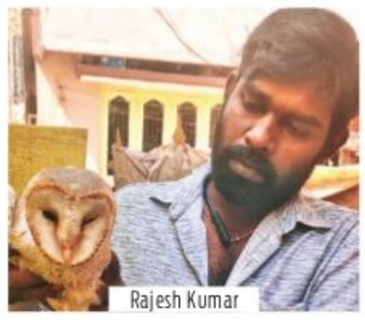
THE lockdown induced by the second wave of Covid-19 seems to have proved fatal in many ways. Besides coronavirus-related casualties, both humans and birds are at the receiving end of manja-induced casualties. This, thanks to the lockdown that urged more people to spend time flying kites, say bird rescuers. Last Wednesday, a software entrepreneur, encountered a manja in Adugodi, that led to injuries on his neck and hands, with an online petition also doing rounds, calling for a strict ban on manja. In fact, many avian species suffered nasty wounds and bruises due to the manja. From high rise buildings to tall trees, rescuers brave all odds to rescue birds from the nearly-invisible nylon threads.

Jayanthi Kallam, executive director of Avian Rescue Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC), explains that kite flying threads end up getting stuck on trees, nests, buildings which entangle a bird's wings. "Many birds in the city were impacted when people took to flying kites during the first lockdown. However, the second lockdown nearly spelt death of many birds, with 25 cases reported on an average every day. Out of which more than 50 per cent of the cases are related to birds suffering wounds because of kites," says Kallam.

According to the Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Trust, a rare bird was sighted in Bengaluru called the Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush. It was admitted to ARRC in December 2020 due to injury from a kite thread. It was released back into the wild in early January '21 to continue its migration to Africa. In March '21, the rehabilitation centre rescued two black crowned Night Herons which were 'manja victims'. Although one survived with wounds, the other one didn't.

Rajesh Kumar, a wildlife rescuer, says the nylon threads entangle the wings, legs and body. "These threads can destroy the wings and it takes at least a month or two for the bird to take flight. This is a silent weapon which is actually killing birds. My team and I have attended to nearly 400 cases in the last three months. Although the use of manja are banned, people still use them, which is very dangerous not just for the avian species but also for human lives," says Kumar.

Rescuers also believe that there are a lot of external factors impeding rescue efforts. The team from ARRC points out that there is a lot of hostility from many neighbourhoods who deny access into their premises during rescue missions. Security permissions in commercial buildings, lack of accurate details like location, pictures, point of contact, among others demotivate their efforts. "The implementation of the ban of manja must be stronger and awareness on the same must be created to keep birds away from death traps," adds Kallam.



Rajesh Kumar

TIMELINE
April 1 to Jun 25 2021

MANJHA-RELATED CASES: 612

RECOVERED: 426

UNDER TREATMENT: 122

DIED/ PERMA-NENTLY DISABLED: 64

MOST AFFECTED: BLACK KITE , BRAHMINY KITE, CROWS, FLYING FOX BATS, BARN OWLS

DATA COURTESY: ARRC

GRUB HUB

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents are published here. Prize: The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher (worth Rs 2,000) on delivery from Cafe Reset.*

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Koshy's 2. Natraj Chola Bhatura 3. Lavonne

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. V P Prathap
2. Priya R
3. Shachi Melanta

*Conditions apply

CITY READ

Vaccination drive for marginalised communities

Biocon Foundation, the corporate social responsibility arm of the Biocon Group, rolled out a community vaccination drive for the marginalised community. The drive is being hosted at an established eLAJ Smart Clinic, operated and managed by the Foundation in Huskur, Bengaluru. Individuals will be vaccinated utilising Covishield vaccines provided free of charge. The vaccination drive was inaugurated by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson, Biocon.

BMSITM Yelahanka holds meet-ups

BMSIT&M organised four meet-ups as part of the 7th edition of EMBARK. All pre-final year engineering students and MCA students were given an opportunity to connect with industry leaders and talent acquisition teams of key organisations. These events saw over 900 students participating, with over 20 employers from MNCs attending the programme.

Real-estate company extends support to construction workers

Total Environment, a real-estate developer, has rolled out a care plan for its employees, construction workers and channel partners across Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad. They have extended medical and financial support to its employees, their families, and construction workers at the sites. Along with awareness campaigns on Covid-related protocols at construction sites and workplaces, the company has also set up medical camps for construction workers.

Fitness goals

Looks like cricketer and B'luru boy Manish Pandey is taking time out for fitness. Sporting a match jersey, Pandey took to social media to give a small tip on fitness and lifestyle. "If you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit", he says. IPL franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad for which Pandey plays posted the player's picture in the gym with a caption, "The only place you'll find Manish Pandey, if not on the field".

Counting on country music

This city-based musician is relying on a unique fundraiser to fuel his dream of going to Nashville, USA, to produce his first album

SIMRAN AHUJA

SHERIDAN Brass has haboured a dream to go to Nashville, USA for as long as he can remember. The American city is nothing less than the 'it place' for country music, and as a country artiste himself, Bengaluru-based Brass knew it's where he wants to be to work on his first album. A musician turning to fundraising to make his dream come true is not new but Brass has decided to do it differently. Recently, he launched a campaign called Building the Nashville Dream, and the words were chosen with care. Because Brass plans to build this dream brick by brick. Donators can buy virtual bricks of ₹2,000 each and with 3,750 of these, the musician would have collected enough to head to Nashville for six months and rent a place and studio to record his album. "I wanted to raise funds in a way where people can visualise the dream with me and be invested in my journey as well," says the 33-year-old.

The bricks may be virtual but they come with benefits. For example, those who buy a lone brick get a shout-out on Brass' weekly Sunday shows on Facebook, their name on a virtual brick wall that's a part of his online show. Other benefits for those who buy five, 10, 25 and 50 bricks include private concerts and an inclusion in his album credits.

Sheridan Brass | SHARAN RANJIT

The Grand Ole Opry, he explains, is like the holy grail for country musicians. Getting to Nashville for six months is the goal, and he is 400 bricks closer to achieving this. "I am hoping to close the fundraiser by the year-end and get to the US by March next year," says Brass, who grew up listening to Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers and Willie Nelson, among others. Though a big fan of the genre, Brass knows it isn't all that popular in India - something he wishes to change with his music. "It's sad because country music holds family, love and hospitality close to its heart, and these are all things India is known for too," he says. Brass has even dubbed himself a 'country music evangelist' and with his album, he hopes to infuse hints of Indian elements with instruments like the sarangi or tabla in some tracks. "I want to spread word about the Indian country music scene abroad and help the genre become more welcoming back home," he says.

For more details about Brass' campaign, reach out to him on countryboy-sheridan@gmail.com

BEATING LAZINESS

Sign up for an interesting early morning session with motivational speaker Ruthuparna Sharma. The 5am session aims to help you beat procrastination as part of a five day workshop to overcome laziness and build an active lifestyle. Cost: ₹499 **When:** June 28 onwards **To register call:** 9902003270

TRIO BLAST

Catch your favourite musical trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy performing music and songs that spans classical, modern, jazz and contemporary, Hindustani, rock, old and new. From the famous music track of Kal Ho Na Ho to Dil Chahta Hai join them in this nostalgic musical journey. **When:** July 3 **Tickets:** bookmyshow.com

WEBINAR ON INVESTMENT

Here is a masterclass on investment focusing to empower more women in financial literacy. The sessions will help you connect with top women investors in India and train you in assessing risks in long term investments, strategies and much more. **When:** June 29 onwards **Register:** insider.in

MACHINE LEARNING CLASSES

Sign up for machine learning classes as part of an online executive programming classes by International Institute of Information Technology Bengaluru. It will help you understand the mathematics behind algorithms, defining a structured approach to solve a business problem through machine learning and much more. **When :** June 30 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

CATCH STAND-UP COMIC PRASHASTI SINGH LIVE WITH HER NEW JOKES AND STORIES WHEN: JUNE 29 ONWARDS TICKETS:BOOKMYSHOW.COM

KATHAK PERFORMANCE

Watch Kathak dancers Sriya and Shivani performing a duet show online. They will be presenting a stution the Lord of the Lords- Shiva, traditional and technical recitals in dharmar taal and a bhajan dedicated to the God of protection- Lord Krishna. **When:** July 3 **Register:** bookmyshow.com

FOOTWEAR COLLECTION

Adidas is launching Adizero footwear to suit the needs of road and track. Some of the models include Adios Pro 2 with two layers of lightstrike pro midsole, Boston 10 and Prime X with lightstrike features, designed for long distance training and running. **Available:** shop.adidas.co.in

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Join author and CEO Anirudh Narayan as he explains about making strong, meaningful relationships in all areas of your life. Right from learning about yourself, consistently making a first impression, understanding others, body language, tone and much more. **When:** June 28 onwards **Register:** bookmyshow.com

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Join upGrads training sessions that deals with various fields of interest. The course will give you access to industry mentorship, deep insights, weekly live lectures in fields like data, technology, management and much more. **When:** June 30 **Register:** bookmyshow.com

ACTING WORKSHOP

Sign up for an acting workshop moderated by artiste Suveer Bhambhani. The workshop will help you learn the fundamentals of acting, breaking stereotypical representation of characters, identifying unique qualities and much more. **When:** July 2 **Register:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

GOLDEN BURFI

INGREDIENTS

- **Grated carrot:** 1 cup ■ **Grated coconut:** 1/2 cup ■ **Sugar:** 1.5 cup
- **Milk:** 1 cup ■ **Melted ghee:** 6 tbsp

METHOD

- Heat milk with sugar in a kadai. Allow it to boil till one string consistency in low flame.
- Add coconut and stir for 2 minutes. Add carrot and cook everything together well.
- When it becomes thick start adding ghee little by little and stir.
- When it stops sticking to the kadai and starts raising, transfer into a greased plate.
- Spread it evenly and allow to cool. Cut it into desired shape and serve.

– Akila Thiyagarajan, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

TADASANA SAMASTHITHI

(STEADY AND FIRM MOUNTAIN POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'tadasana' means mountain pose, 'sama' means equal and 'sthithi' means 'to establish'. It is a good asana for cultivating stillness, strength and a sense of relaxed power. It is both physically and mentally a grounding pose, which cultivates a connection with the earth. It can be deepened by closing the eyes to challenge the balance further. In Ashtanga Vinyasa yoga, the Drishti for Samasthithi is the end of the nose, or Nasagra Drishti, which helps to make the pose more introspective. All three Bandhas – Uddiyana, Mula and Jalandhara – can be engaged during Samasthithi.

STEPS

- Stand erect with the feet together, the heels and big toes touching each other. All the toes on the floor.
- Tighten the knees and pull the kneecaps up, contract the hips and pull up the muscles at the back of the thighs.
- Keep the stomach tucked in, chest forward, spine stretched up and the neck straight.
- Do not bear the weight of the body either on the heels or the toes, but distribute it evenly.
- Ensure the chin is not raised up and is close to the collar bone. Keep a smile on your face. Bring arms close to your body by the side of the thighs.
- You can close your eyes and learn to balance the body with focus on the breath and the steadiness of the body.
- Stay in the pose for 30-60 seconds or as long as it is comfortable.
- The stability of the body improves along with straightening of the spine with proper breathing.

BENEFITS

- The entire body is stretched and muscles are expanded.
- Legs become strong at the ankles and the knees.
- Hips are raised, which brings a good support to the entire back ensuring the spine is expanded giving room for proper flow of prana to the entire body.
- Tones chest and shoulders helping to correct bad postures.
- Keeping the spine straight by pulling the tummy in helps in toning of the abdominal muscles and lengthening the spine.
- Keep the body light which is essential for the practice of most other poses.

LIMITATIONS

- If you have stress-related headaches, a migraine or giddiness, eye strain, low blood pressure, osteoarthritis of the knees, bulimia, diarrhoea, insomnia or leukorrhea, avoid this.
- If you have a problem with balance, practise this with your feet about 25 cm apart.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

SERIAL
Serial is an investigative journalism podcast hosted by Sarah Koenig, narrating a nonfiction story over multiple episodes. The series was co-created and is co-produced by Koenig and Julie Snyder and developed by This American Life. Serial is an investigative journalism podcast hosted by Sarah Koenig, narrating a nonfiction story over multiple episodes. The series was co-created and is co-produced by Koenig and Julie Snyder and developed by This American Life.
- On Google Podcast

SNAP JUDGEMENT PRESENTS: SPOOKED
Spooked features true-life supernatural stories, told firsthand by people who can barely believe it happened themselves. Gear up for some spine-tingling moments.
- On Apple Podcasts

WHERE SHOULD WE BEGIN?
Listen to the therapist Esther Perel counsel real couples as they reveal the most intimate, personal, and complicated details of the conflicts that have brought them to her door.
- On Stitcher

CYRUS SAYS
Hosted by Cyrus Broacha, this podcast is about life in India, politics, sports, civic sense, traffic, kids, food, and everything that matters.
- On Apple Podcast

EVERYTHING IS ALIVE
Everything is Alive is an unscripted interview show in which all the subjects are inanimate objects. In each episode, a different thing tells us its life story – and everything it says is true.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

JAGUAR
Krishna, an orphan and a first-year MBBS student, dons a vigilante avatar and seemingly kills people randomly. He also tries to woo his friend's sister, Priya.
- Cast: Nikhil Gowda
Deepti Sati

SEETHARAMAKALYANA
Arya, a righteous man, falls in love with a small-town woman named Geetha, unaware of the obstacles that lie ahead for both of them.
- Cast: Nikhil Gowda, Rachita Ram

MILANA
Anjali's father forces her to marry Akash. Unable to forget her past, she demands a divorce from Akash, but soon begins to fall for him.
- Cast: Puneet Rajkumar, Parvathy Thiruvothu

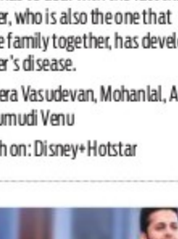
HEBBULI
After Ram's brother dies suddenly, he decides to investigate the reason behind his death. However, he must fight against the corrupt system to protect his family and find the truth.
- Cast: Kichcha Sudeep, Ravichandran

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 PAY OFF YOUR CREDIT CARDS FASTER WITH THESE FOUR EASY CHANGES BY WENDY DE LA ROSA
Whether you want to pay off credit card debt or just prevent yourself from accruing big balances in the first place, there are some simple steps you can take to help achieve your goal, according to behavioral scientist Wendy De La Rosa.

2 YOUR HEALTH DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU LIVE BY BILL DAVENHALL
Where you live: It impacts your health as much as diet and genes do, but it's not part of your medical records. At TEDMED, Bill Davenhall shows how overlooked government geo-data can mesh with mobile GPS apps to keep doctors in the loop. Call it "geo-medicine."



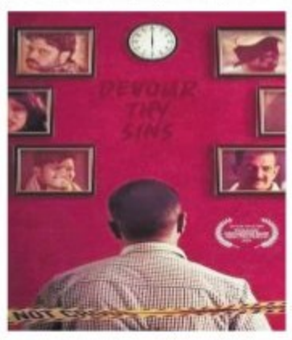
3 SHOULD YOU TRUST UNANIMOUS DECISIONS BY DEREK ABBOTT
Imagine a police lineup where ten witnesses are asked to identify a bank robber they glimpsed fleeing the scene. If six of them pick the same person, there's a good chance that's the culprit. And if all ten do, you might think the case is rock solid. But sometimes, the closer you start to get to total agreement, the less reliable the result becomes.

4 WHY YOUR DOCTOR SHOULD CARE ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE BY MARY BASSETT
In Zimbabwe in the 1980s, Mary Bassett witnessed the AIDS epidemic firsthand. The same structural problems exist in the United States today, and as New York City's Health Commissioner, Bassett is using every chance she has to rally support for health equity and speak out against racism.

5 3 LESSONS ON SUCCESS FROM AN ARAB BUSINESSWOMEN BY LEILA HOTEIT
Professional Arab women juggle more responsibilities than their male counterparts. What can their success teach us about tenacity, competition, priorities and progress? Tracing her career as an engineer, advocate and mother in Abu Dhabi, Leila Hoteit shares three lessons for thriving in the modern world.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL



ARISHADVARGA (Kannada)
An aspiring actor doubling as an amateur gigolo gets caught up in a sticky situation after accepting a surprise gift from an anonymous client. Cast: Sumyuktha Hornad, Anju Alva Naik
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

KAVACHA (Kannada)
Jayarama, who is visually challenged, agrees to be the guardian of a young girl, Meenakshi, after her father is murdered. Soon, he finds himself battling a serial killer whose new target is Meenakshi.
Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Isha Kopikkar, Ravi Kale, Kruthika Jayakumar
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

SHAADISTHAN (Hindi)
Mumbai to Ajmer, a squabbling family, a band, and clashing values. Along the roads of friendship and life, this journey only gets crazier.
Cast: Medha Shankar, Kirti Kulhari, Shenpenn Khymsar, Nivedita Bhattacharya
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

SUNFLOWER (Hindi, series)
A quirky murder mystery based in a housing society called Sunflower. Its simpleton resident Sonu dives headlong into a murder mystery and becomes the chief suspect. What happens next?
Cast: Sunil Grover, Mukul Chadda, Radha Bhatt, Saloni Khanna
- Watch on: Zee5

ANJAAM PATHIRAA (Malayalam)
Anwar is a consulting criminologist who helps the Kerala Police every now and then. When a string of serial killings happen in quick succession, he must race against time to find the one responsible.
Cast: Kunchako Boban, Unnimaya Prasad, Nandhana Varma, Sharaf UDheen
- Watch on: MX Player

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

THANMATHRA (Malayalam)
A family has to deal with the fact that the father, who is also the one that holds the family together, has developed Alzheimer's disease.
Cast: Meera Vasudevan, Mohanlal, Arjun Lal, Nedumudi Venu
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

RANG DE (Telugu)
A man and woman have been neighbours since they were children, but they have different perspectives on their relationship.
Cast: Keerthy Suresh, Nithiin, Gayathri Raghuram, Ronit Kamra
- Watch on: Zee5

ENGLISH

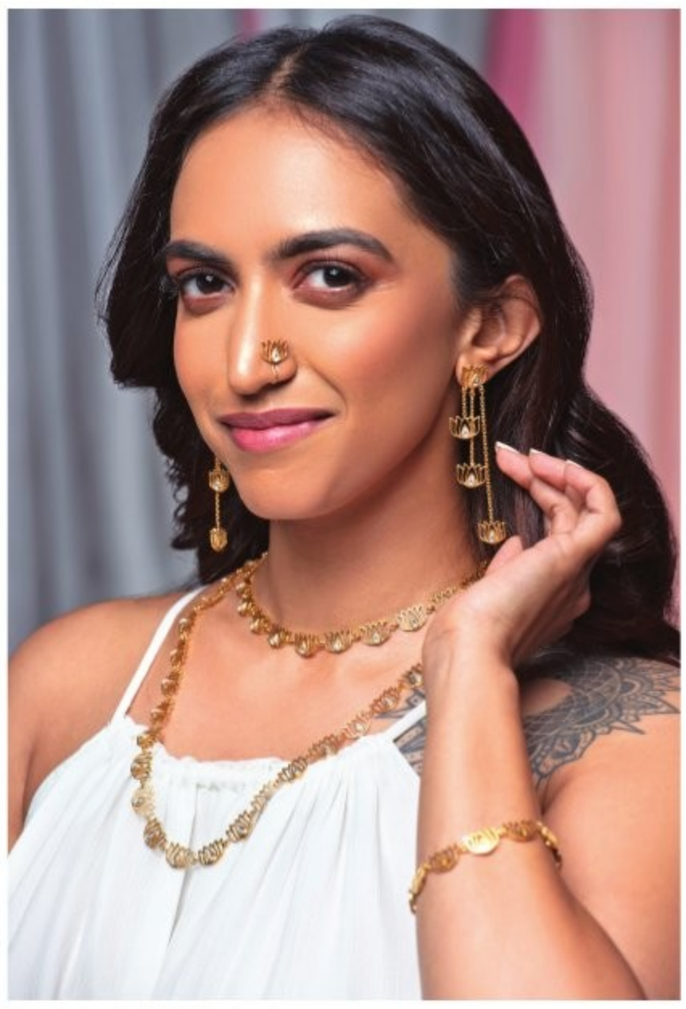
LUCA
A coming-of-age story about a young boy experiencing an unforgettable summer filled with gelato, pasta and endless scooter rides. Luca shares these adventures with his newfound best friend, but all the fun is threatened by a secret: he is a sea monster below the water's surface.
Cast: Jacob Tremblay, Jack Dylan Grazer, Emma Berman, John Ratzenberger
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

THE EMPTY MAN
On the trail of a missing girl, an ex-cop comes across a secretive group attempting to summon a terrifying supernatural entity.
Cast: James Badge Dale, Marin Ireland, Joel Courtney, Stephen Root
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

LITTLE WOMEN
While the March sisters enter the threshold of womanhood, they go through many ups and downs in life and endeavour to make important decisions that can affect their future.
Cast: Timothee Chalamet, Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Meryl Streep
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA
In 1970s Los Angeles, the legendary ghost La Llorona is stalking the night – and the children. Ignoring the eerie warning of a troubled mother, a social worker and her own kids are drawn into a frightening supernatural realm. Their only hope of surviving La Llorona's deadly wrath is a disillusioned priest who practices mysticism to keep evil at bay.
Cast: Linda Cardellini, Patricia Velasquez, Raymond Cruz, Marisol Ramirez
- Watch on: Netflix

SUBSCRIPTION
Prime Video: ₹129 per month
Zee5: ₹99 per month
Netflix: ₹199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹299 per month



From Unniyarcha's LOTUS collection

SWEET AND SIMPLE

Since big fat Indian weddings are no longer taking place, most brides are opting for light-weight ornaments instead

SUDESHNA DUTTA

It appears that a pandemic can help break stereotypes, no matter how traditionally deep-rooted it is. For some, weddings have been postponed until the Covid situation comes under control. But those who are planning intimate ceremonies are breaking away from the age-old tradition of wearing heavy gold or diamond jewellery and opting for light-weight ornaments to keep it simple.

"I always wanted a simple wedding and the lockdown this year helped me and my husband convince our parents for a half-day ceremony with 40 guests. Since all the shops were closed, I could not go shopping and thus, borrowed a necklace from my friend. I wanted to feel comfortable on my wedding day and this was perfect," says Sindhu Malavalli, who got married on May 28. Similarly, Saranyaa Murkesh wanted to go in for the traditional bridal look earlier, but the lockdown changed her plans and she wore only what she bought a long time ago -- a few pieces of light-weight imitation jewellery. "In the end, I was quite happy with the result," she says.

"Women are now looking out for jewellery that can blend well with multiple outfits. Lightweights like simple chains and pearl drops go very well with both western and ethnic wear. They also go easy on the pocket without compromising the look, and that is what millennials are looking for," says Chinu Kala, founder, Rubans Accessories, adding that the Kundan-inspired lightweight designs is a new favourite as it brings the royal traditional vibe for a wedding, besides being simple and elegant at the same time.

Divya Nambiar's brand, Unniyarcha Design, recently launched a new lightweight jewellery collection showcasing subtle colours that match the vibe of an intimate get-together. "We are looking at an uncertain future and since the current mood is a bit gloomy, most couples feel that it is insensitive to go for big fat weddings during this time. So we wanted to come up with something that is low-key, delicately handcrafted and can be worn on any kind of occasion," she says. Economic slowdown is also an important factor why people are moving away from gold ornaments, Nambiar adds.

For Blingvine, 2020 was pretty hard on their business because of the countrywide lockdown and stringent Covid protocols. "After unlock, our sales shot up exponentially because of an intensive wedding season in India. In the last financial year (2020-21), we managed to grow our sales by 35 per cent despite the great economic depression," says founder Gaurav Bansal. Deepshikha Gupta, Senior VP Designer, Melorra, adds that lightweight gold jewellery is in high demand. "With the festive season around the corner, we hope to see further increase in sales. Customers want to opt for pieces that are bought with a focus on the situation right now. This trend is likely to stay for a long time to come," she says.

> *Women are now looking out for jewellery that can blend well with multiple outfits. Lightweights like simple chains and pearl drops go very well with both western and ethnic wear*
>
> - Chinu Kala, founder, Rubans Accessories

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

How men can up their skincare game

Men must assess their skin profile and concerns to address them | Pic: SkinKraft Labs

For most Indian men, skincare is hardly in their vocabulary for the paucity of time, behavioural conditioning and other factors. Nonetheless, men should absolutely have a skincare regimen. It need not be elaborate but at least a few minutes of the day are required since skin is the largest organ of the body. Skincare novices have heard buzzwords like charcoal, apple cider vinegar and hemp seed oil, to name a few. They have a good ring to it but one needs to know their skin type to understand what will suit them the best.

Dr Kaustav Guha, head, R&D at SkinKraft Labs, says, "On average, the male skin is 20 per cent thicker than female skin. However, the collagen content of male skin depletes steadily. An adult male is more prone to oily skin due to a larger and higher number of sebaceous glands and hence it is more acne prone. Regular shaving can also make skin sensitive. It is imperative for men to assess their skin profile and concerns to address them. Men should not just go for any generic product, which might do more harm."

Agrees Sainath Jain, founder of male skincare brand HIVADO, who says, "Men's skin is biologically structured in a different way from a woman's skin. This is why, men do need a customised skincare solution that is made with ingredients and actives that can be effectively nourished. Men tend to be more minimalistic in the number of products they use. How products feel on their skin and how they smell are important considerations to be made."

Here are some essentials men can include in their skin routine:

1. Cleansing and toning

Skincare for men requires attention and it must be customised according to their age, skin type and lifestyle. CTM, or cleansing, toning and moisturising, is essential and since men tend to have oilier and thicker skin, they need to use a mild cleanser twice a day. Toning could be a spray of mists or essence or even rose water. Moisturising is essential to save the skin from environmental stressors like sun, pollution, air conditioners, smoking and other habits that have an impact on overall health.

2. Sunscreen

This is non-negotiable. It keeps your skin from tanning and safe from the harmful impact of the sun, so this must not be ignored. A gel-based sunscreen is good if you don't prefer the greasy ones. There are many sunscreens that come in the form of sprays too.

3. Exfoliating

Our bodies shed dead cells naturally but a good exfoliant once a week won't hurt. Cream exfoliants are apt for dry or sensitive skin. Exfoliating also smoothens hair follicles, thus making shaving easier.

4. Look out for your peepers

Take care of the skin around your eyes because the current lifestyle implies over exposure to blue light and pollution. This makes the eyes susceptible to dehydration, undereye fine lines and wrinkles. Dab a serum at night around your eyes to wake up to fresher eyes.

(The author is a social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Videogame announcement week

I have often wondered if there is any other entertainment medium that is so smug, as to have a week of simply announcing the games they will release in the following year. This year though, the smugness is validated. There was at least one game in every announcement that made me go — "Ooh. I NEED that".

The world of Elden Ring is one that I see myself exploring. The universe of the game is inspired by the creator of Dark Souls and Game of Thrones. The trailer is hauntingly beautiful, or in other words, everything looks great but scary, because the skies are not blue. So, I see myself exploring it, for sure, but in easy mode. The line-up in the Xbox announcement had something for everyone. The trailer of the next Forza has even shinier cars in even more realistic environments. There's Somerville, an indie game reminiscent of Limbo/Inside, and "Redfall", a co-op FPS in true Arkane style to which I am particularly looking forward. In fact, I have secured a gaming PC and an Xbox game pass because this year looks promising for good story-based PC gaming.

Ubisoft's announcement had me a little disappointed because I was hoping for more on Assassin's Creed. My personal biases aside, we saw a bit more of Far Cry 6, which teased some great combat sequences and story interludes. They spent quite a bit of time introducing Rainbow Six Extraction another co-op FPS, and a spin-off of Siege. It has zombie monsters, the introduction of which is the natural spin-off of any shooter game. Their main announcement was the introduction to "Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora". You know what they say, the game version is always better than the book/movies. Ubisoft's reputed open-world experience may just peak next year with this game.

Nintendo's E3 kept it short on the most-awaited announcement – a sequel to the Breath of the Wild (but it's out in 2022, alright). The Indie games showcase restored the balance to other announcements with proportionate quantities of "cute" in their games. Capcom is releasing a DLC to Resident Evil Village, and there's probably a lot more that I am missing in this article.

All in all, an eventful announcement week, anticipating a 2022 with more games than time could afford.

CITY READ

Initiative for frontline workers

As part of the Support Programme for Frontline Workers, a retired bank official and his working son launched an initiative for frontline workers in and around Koramangala 8th Block. The initiative was organised in memory of Nirmala Hebbar, the wife of retired banker A Chandrashekar Hebbar and mother of communications professional Prameet Hebbar, in association with Elders Assist Group. The package included sanitisers, soaps, face shields, and mangoes.

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran

(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

On a Mars mission

In Surviving Mars, you've to put together a functioning Martian colony capable of supporting the human colonists

Surviving Mars comes from good stock. It's developed by Haemimont Games, who've put out the last three Tropico games, and it's published by Paradox Interactive, best known for Cities: Skylines, Crusader Kings II and a game I recently wrote about here, Stellaris. So the pedigree's there, but does this game live up to it?

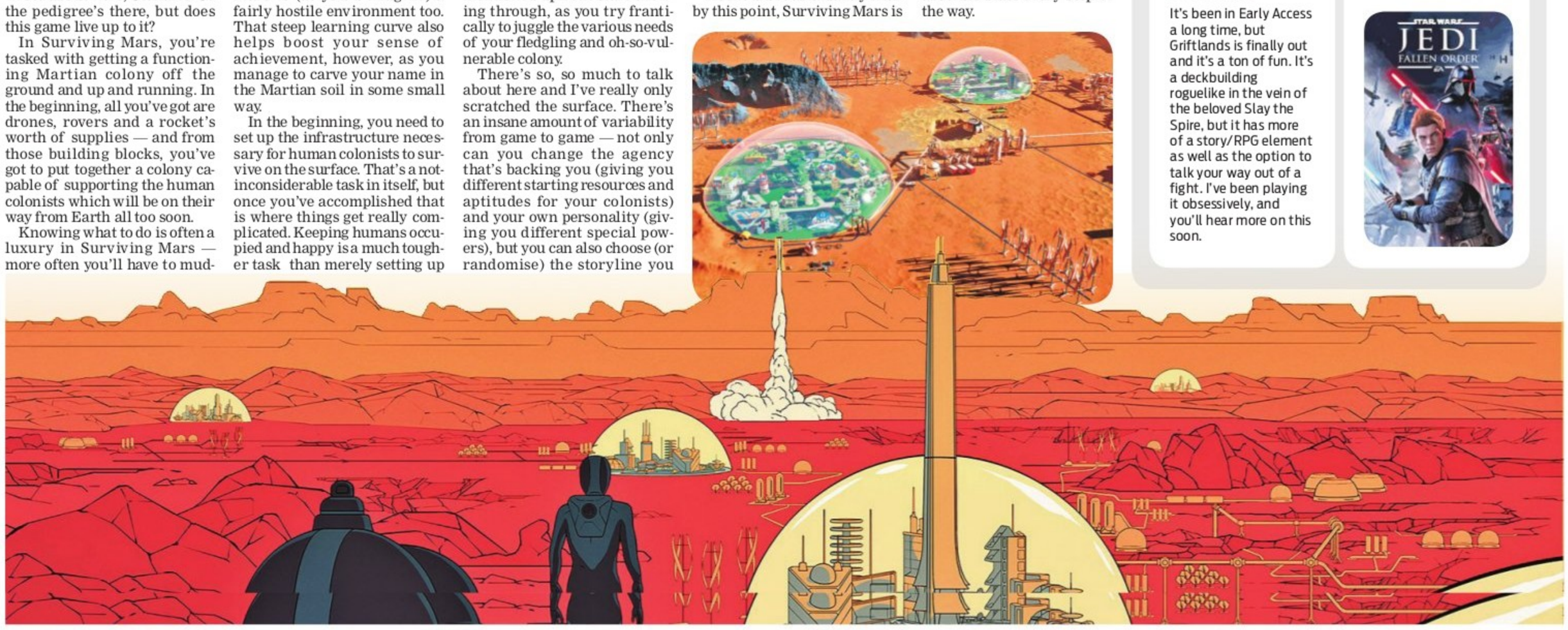
In Surviving Mars, you're tasked with getting a functioning Martian colony off the ground and up and running. In the beginning, all you've got are drones, rovers and a rocket's worth of supplies — and from those building blocks, you've got to put together a colony capable of supporting the human colonists which will be on their way from Earth all too soon.

Knowing what to do is often a luxury in Surviving Mars — more often you'll have to muddle your way toward achieving your short-term goals. The game doesn't go out of its way to make things easy for you, and Mars is (as you'd imagine) a fairly hostile environment too. That steep learning curve also helps boost your sense of achievement, however, as you manage to carve your name in the Martian soil in some small way.

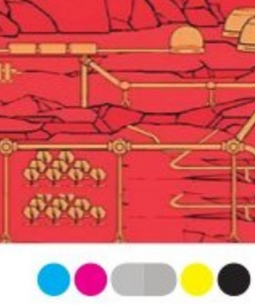
In the beginning, you need to set up the infrastructure necessary for human colonists to survive on the surface. That's a not-inconsiderable task in itself, but once you've accomplished that is where things get really complicated. Keeping humans occupied and happy is a much tougher task than merely setting up a power grid or creating a workable water/oxygen harvesting industry. This is where the DNA of some of those other games I mentioned upfront start showing through, as you try frantically to juggle the various needs of your fledgling and oh-so-vulnerable colony.

There's so, so much to talk about here and I've really only scratched the surface. There's an insane amount of variability from game to game — not only can you change the agency that's backing you (giving you different starting resources and aptitudes for your colonists) and your own personality (giving you different special powers), but you can also choose (or randomise) the storyline you will be playing through. Yes, there are elements of a story in this game - and, although I haven't gotten too far into this aspect of it, it seems both intriguing and something that's best viewed as a bonus. (You'll be too busy trying to stay alive.)

As should be abundantly clear by this point, Surviving Mars is not going to be for everybody. It wastes no time holding your hand and steering you through its intricacies. I've lost two colonies at this point — one to a meteor storm, and one because I realised just how badly I'd crewed up so I was forced to reset — but the third one is...well, 'thriving' would be a bit much. 'Surviving', let's say. Keeping it going has been like balancing on a knife edge (without having ever seen a knife before, or understanding the concept of gravity), but I've had an absolute blast every step of the way.



WHAT'S NEW?



Griftlands

It's been in Early Access a long time, but Griftlands is finally out and it's a ton of fun. It's a deckbuilding roguelike in the vein of the beloved Slay the Spire, but it has more of a story/RPG element as well as the option to talk your way out of a fight. I've been playing it obsessively, and you'll hear more on this soon.

Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order

Fallen Order has been out for a while, of course, but it's being released on PS5 and XSX this week with the usual accompanying graphical upgrades and bells-and-whistles. If you've missed out on this excellent Star Wars game until now, here's your chance.

Puneeth Rajkumar's production house rolls out *Man of the Match*

The film, directed by director D Satya Prakash, will be bankrolled by PRK Productions in association with Sathya and Mayura Pictures

Puneeth Rajkumar and D Satya Prakash

Life is a match, and we are the players. A person can play the game without values, but cannot become the man of the match. That's the theme of my film
–D Satya Prakash, director

A SHARADHAA

Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions which is focused on bringing out content-based films, will bankroll *Rama Rama Re* director D Satya Prakash's upcoming film, *Man of the Match*. The film is produced by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar in association with Satya and Mayura Pictures. The project, launched on March 18, went on floors in April but was paused due to the lockdown. The director, who resumed shooting post the relaxation, will wrap the entire picture today. Interestingly, Puneeth had visited the sets a couple of days ago, and wished them good luck.

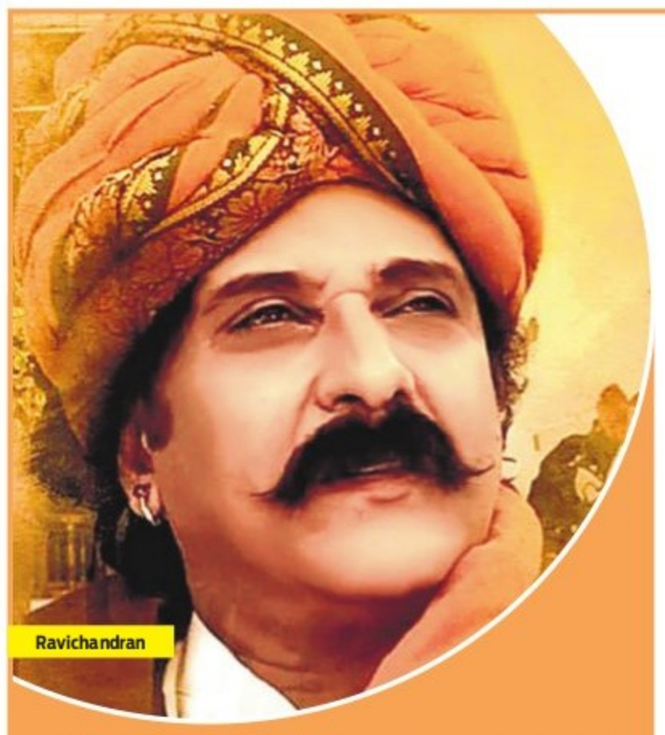
Director Satya is elated about his film being presented by Puneeth's production house. "I was in talks with Puneeth sir to helm a project for him, and have been discussing about it for almost one year. However, Covid caused a delay and the project was pushed. I was free for three months when the story idea of *Man of the Match* struck. I thought this was a good topic to explore. And when the first lockdown was lifted, I went back to Puneeth to discuss his film, and also shared with him the story of *Man of the Match*. It caught his attention. I even shared a couple of scenes from the film which further excited him. He felt the content was quite fresh. Since he was tied-up with several projects, he suggested that I take up this film and he would back it. The moment I got a green signal from, I took it up," says Satya.

The director says that Puneeth has been there since the time he discussed the one liner, and his support helped him complete the movie at one go. Interestingly, the entire film was shot in Kanteerava Studios. It is the first time an entire picture has been shot under one roof. The social satire, made with a decent budget, mostly comprises artistes who had worked in *Rama Rama Re*. At least 120 artistes are part of the film, which has a lot of freshers. "Since the shooting was taking place at one location, we didn't keep it monotonous, and came up with different backdrops. We also played around with the lighting," explains Satya.

While the term 'man of the match' is usually associated with the game of cricket, Satya's film refers to everyday life. "Life is a match, and we are the players. A person can play the game without values, but cannot become the man of the match. That's the theme of my film," says Satya. The actors include K Jayaram, Dharmanna Kadur, Nataraj among others. Music directors Nobin Paul and Vasuki Vaibhav are scoring music, while cinematography is handled by Lavith Kumar and Madan Katokar. The film's editing is done by B S Kempraju, while the art department is handled by Varadaraj Kamath.

On the sets of *Man of the Match*

A still from the film


Ravichandran

Ravichandran to resume shooting with a song for *Kannadiga*

The makers will be shooting the track sung by Shivarajkumar; film is directed by Giriraj and bankrolled by NS Rajkumar

CE FEATURES

Ravichandran will resume shooting for films, and will start with a pending song shoot for *Kannadiga*. The track, sung by Shivarajkumar, is a folk-based theme and will have A Harsha handling the choreography. A film directed by BM Giriraj and bankrolled by NS Rajkumar, this was one of the films that began post the relaxation of the first lockdown. The project, which has got a censor certificate in hand, will wrap the film with a single shoot. The makers are working on the sets and will start filming the track this week.

Kannadiga is a period drama, and explore the local culture. Ravichandran explores the character of Gunabadra. He will also be playing the role of a warrior in a flashback story. The film also marks the debut of Tom Alter's son, Jamie Alter, who will be essaying the role of Reverend Ferdinand Kittel. Along with these actors, Kannadiga also features Paavana, Rockline Venkatesh, Balaji Manohar in prominent roles. With Ravi Basrur scoring the music, and GSV Seetharam handling the cinematography, Giriraj, who is almost through with the post-production work, is looking to bring out the film to theatres.

NEW POSTER OF *KABZAA*

FEATURING UPENDRA AND SUDEEP IN PERIOD GETUP LAUNCHED

CE FEATURES

Director R Chandru is getting ready to resume work for the much-anticipated *Kabzaa*. The production team is currently erecting huge sets for the shoot.

The 'combo' poster of the gangster period drama, which will have a pan Indian release, was revealed by the makers at 6 am on Sunday featuring the leading stars Upendra and Sudeep. It was followed by the release of a motion poster, and it has hit the internet. The retro look of the stars is expected to get their fans excited. The film presented by MTB Nagaraj has director R Chandru bankrolling the project under his home banner, Sri Siddheshwara Enterprises.

The makers are planning to release the film in seven languages: Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi, Bengali and Oriya. Chandru, who is leaving no stone unturned, reveals that the film is half complete, and those who have watched the rushes have compared the making to Hollywood standards. "Like Yash starrer *KGF* directed by Prashanth Neel and Rajamouli's *RRR*, our film *Kabzaa* too is equally doing the talk among well-known production houses across all regions and there is a huge demand for satellite and digital rights," he says.

Kabzaa is a gangster drama set between 1940 and 1980, and its plot revolves around the rise of the underworld in India. With Upendra essaying the role of underworld don and Sudeep playing a character named Bhargav Bakshi, *Kabzaa* consists of an ensemble cast of actors like Kamarajan of *I*fame, Jagapathi Babu, Rahul Dev, Anup Revanna, Kabir Duhan Singh, Danish Akhtar Saifi, Pradeep Rawat, Jayaprakash, and Kota Srinivas among others.

The makers are shooting the film in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Ravi Basrur, who is known for his composition in *KGF* will be scoring music for *Kabzaa*, and Shivakumar handling the art department. The film's cinematography and editing are handled by AJ Shetty and Mahesh Reddy respectively. The stunts in the film are choreographed by Ravi Varma, Vikram Mor and Vijay.

A still from the film

Director R Chandru, who is releasing the film is seven languages, is happy with the kind of buzz the movie has been creating

Alia Bhatt's *Gangubai Kathiawadi* wraps filming

CE FEATURES

The Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial, *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, starring Alia Bhatt in the titular role, has wrapped production. In a series of tweets, Alia expressed gratitude to the film's team and the filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali for the "life-changing experience" while sharing photos from the film's set.

"We started shooting *Gangubai Kathiawadi* on the 8th of December, 2019, and wrapped the film now, 2 years later! This film and the set have been through two lockdowns, two cyclones, director and actor getting Covid during the making. The troubles the set has faced is another film altogether! But through all that and more, what I take away is the gigantic, mind-blowing, heart-wrenching life-changing experience!" wrote Alia.

She added, "Being directed by sir has been a dream all my life, but I don't think anything would have prepared me for the journey I was on for these two years. I walk out of this set a diff person today! I love you, sir! Thank you for being you, there is truly NO ONE like you. When a film ends a part of you ends with it! Today I've lost a part of me. Gangu, I love you! You will be missed." *Gangubai Kathiawadi* also stars Vijay Raaz, Indira Tiwari, and Seema Pahwa in prominent roles. Ajay Devgn will be appearing in an extended cameo, joining hands with the director 20 years after their first collaboration, Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam. A co-production between Bhansali Productions and Pen India Limited, the makers are shortly expected to announce the film's release date.

A still from the film

Ajay Devgn to resume final schedule of *Bhuj: The Pride of India* next week

CE FEATURES

Ajay Devgn will resume shooting for the final schedule of *Bhuj: The Pride of India* in Mumbai next week, states a report in a daily.

The war drama was extensively shot in Hyderabad last year. Director Abhishek Dudhaiya with Ajay and a small team will complete the remaining portions next week, post which the film will officially wrap, the report adds.

Bhuj: The Pride of India is set during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. Ajay essays the role of squadron leader Vijay Karnik, who, along with 300 local women, rebuilt the destroyed Bhuj airstrip during the war and helped Indian soldiers land to safety. The film also features Sonakshi Sinha, Sanjay Dutt, Rana Daggubati, Ammy Virk, Nora Fatehi and others.

Ajay's upcoming releases are Maidaan, RRR, Thank God and Mayday. He is also making his web debut in the forthcoming series Rudra - The Edge Of Darkness.